



DC
COMICS™

THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING SERIES

BATMAN™

VOLUME 8
SUPERHEAVY

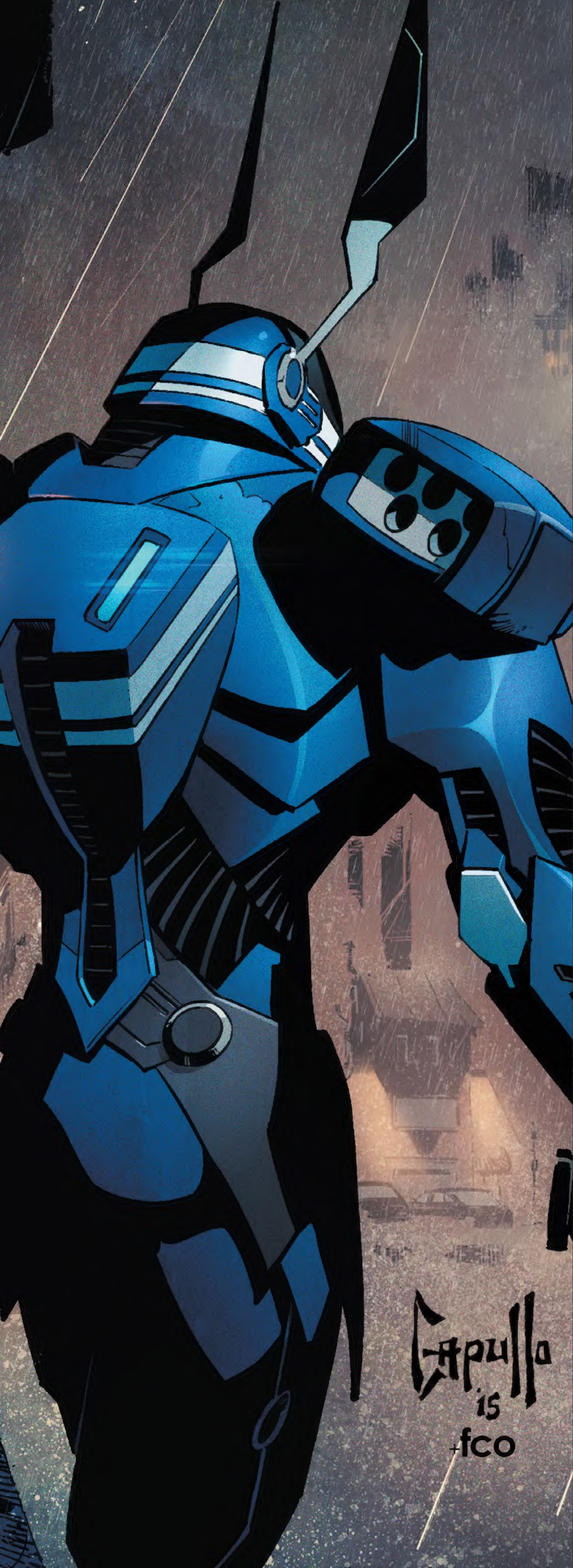


Capullo fco
15
Plascencia

SCOTT SNYDER GREG CAPULLO
DANNY MIKI FCO PLASCENCIA

VOLUME 8
SUPERHEAVY

BATMAN



Capullo
is
+fco



BATMAN

VOLUME 8
SUPERHEAVY

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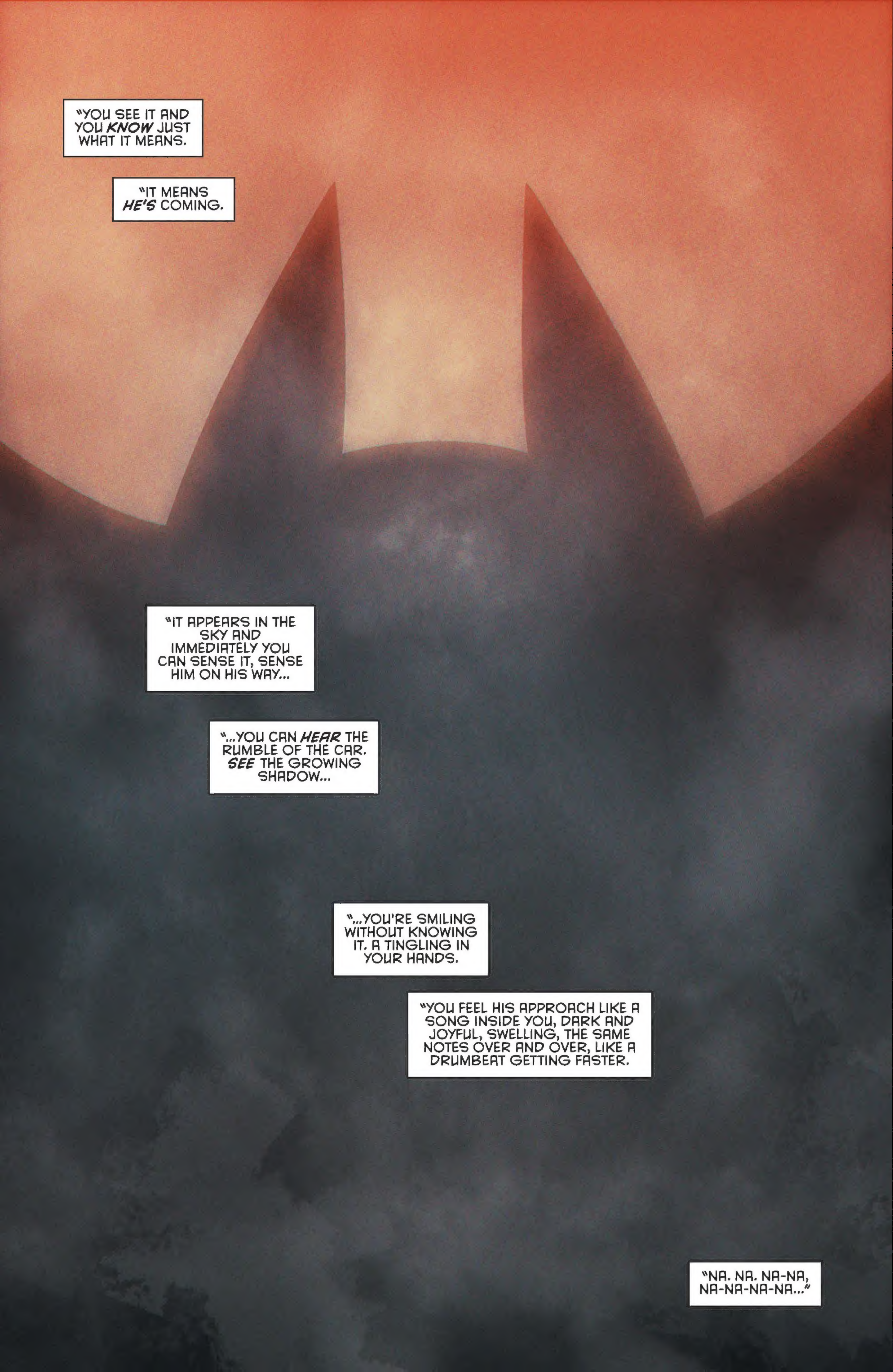
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BATMAN VOL. 8: SUPERHEAVY

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"YOU SEE IT AND
YOU *KNOW* JUST
WHAT IT MEANS.

"IT MEANS
HE'S COMING.

"IT APPEARS IN THE
SKY AND
IMMEDIATELY YOU
CAN SENSE IT, SENSE
HIM ON HIS WAY...

"...YOU CAN *HEAR* THE
RUMBLE OF THE CAR.
SEE THE GROWING
SHADOW...

"...YOU'RE SMILING
WITHOUT KNOWING
IT. A TINGLING IN
YOUR HANDS.

"YOU FEEL HIS APPROACH LIKE A
SONG INSIDE YOU, DARK AND
JOYFUL, SWELLING, THE SAME
NOTES OVER AND OVER, LIKE A
DRUMBEAT GETTING FASTER.

"NA. NA. NA-NA,
NA-NA-NA-NA..."

"...BUT HE'S *NOT*
COMING."

"NOT TONIGHT."

"NOT *EVER*
AGAIN."





"IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE THE JOKER UNLEASHED HIS DEADLY **ENDGAME** VIRUS ON GOTHAM.

"TWO MONTHS SINCE BATMAN **FOILED** HIS PLAN AND CURED THE CITY...

"...BUT THE TRUTH IS, TWO MONTHS LATER, GOTHAM MIGHT BE **CURED**, BUT IT'S ANYTHING BUT HEALED.

"SO MANY PEOPLE MISSING, SO MUCH DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, TO EACH OTHER..."

...AND PERHAPS THE **GREATEST** INJURY TO THIS CITY, THE ONE WE MIGHT NEVER RECOVER FROM...IS, OF COURSE, THE LOSS OF **BATMAN** HIMSELF.

ALL REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS OUTLETS ARE REPORTING THAT THE CAPED CRUSADER **PERISHED** SOMEWHERE DEEP BENEATH GOTHAM, DURING A FINAL BATTLE WITH THE JOKER.



THE **ONLY** CONSOLATION FOR THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THIS CITY--AND THIS IS JUST **THIS** REPORTER'S OPINION, **NOT** THE STATION'S--IS KNOWING THAT BATMAN TOOK THAT **MONSTER JOKER** WITH HIM.

AGAIN, ~~=koff=~~ JUST MY VIEWS, BUT I NEEDED TO SAY THAT.

13 GOTHAM NEWS 13 Batman and Joker - their deadly final battle

WHAT WE CAN **ALL** AGREE ON, I'M SURE, IS THAT A GOTHAM CITY **WITHOUT** BATMAN IS A STRANGE, SAD, AND **EMPTY** PLACE INDEED.

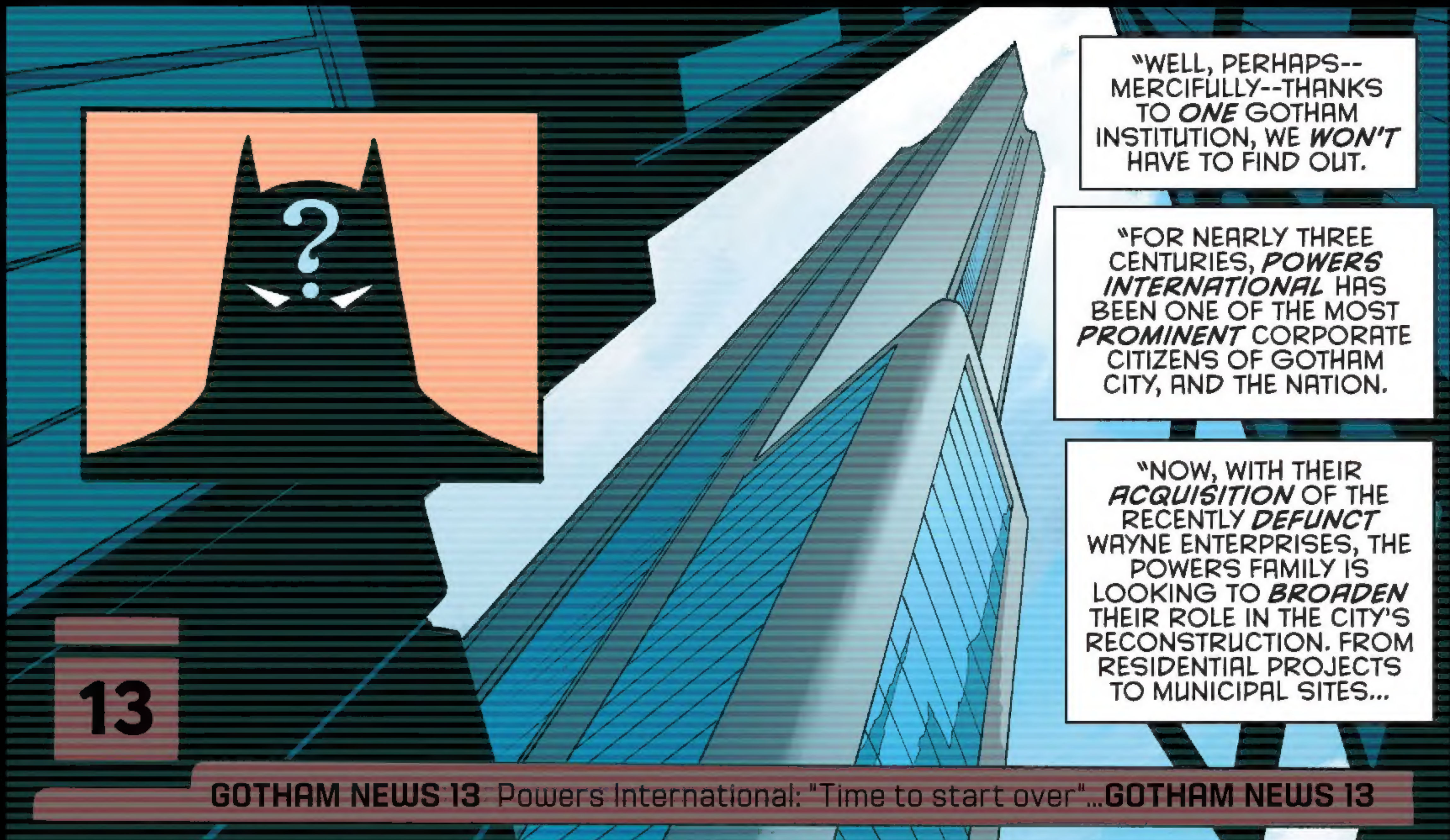
HE TAUGHT US TO BE **UNAFRAID**. TO BE **OURSELVES**. TO BE **FIGHTERS**. TO BE A LITTLE CRAZY, TOO.

SO WHO **ARE** WE, FELLOW GOTHAMITES, WITHOUT BATMAN?



13

GOTHAM NEWS 13 Batman and Joker - their deadly final battle



"WELL, PERHAPS--
MERCIFULLY--THANKS
TO *ONE* GOTHAM
INSTITUTION, WE *WON'T*
HAVE TO FIND OUT.

"FOR NEARLY THREE
CENTURIES, *POWERS
INTERNATIONAL* HAS
BEEN ONE OF THE MOST
PROMINENT CORPORATE
CITIZENS OF GOTHAM
CITY, AND THE NATION.

"NOW, WITH THEIR
ACQUISITION OF THE
RECENTLY *DEFUNCT*
WAYNE ENTERPRISES, THE
POWERS FAMILY IS
LOOKING TO *BROADEN*
THEIR ROLE IN THE CITY'S
RECONSTRUCTION. FROM
RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS
TO MUNICIPAL SITES...

13

GOTHAM NEWS 13 Powers International: "Time to start over"...GOTHAM NEWS 13

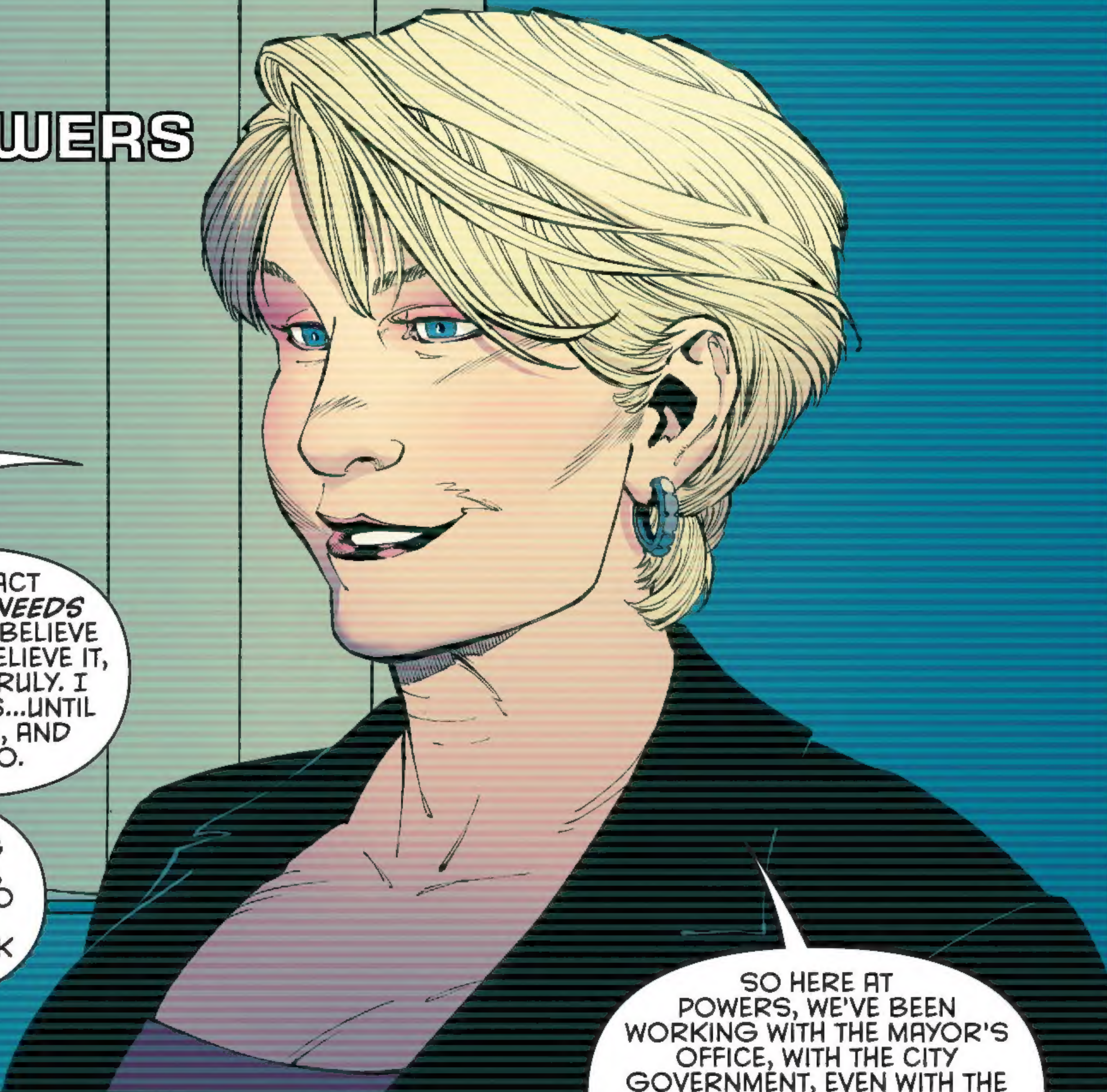
"...TO *BATMAN
HIMSELF.*"

CEO GERI POWERS

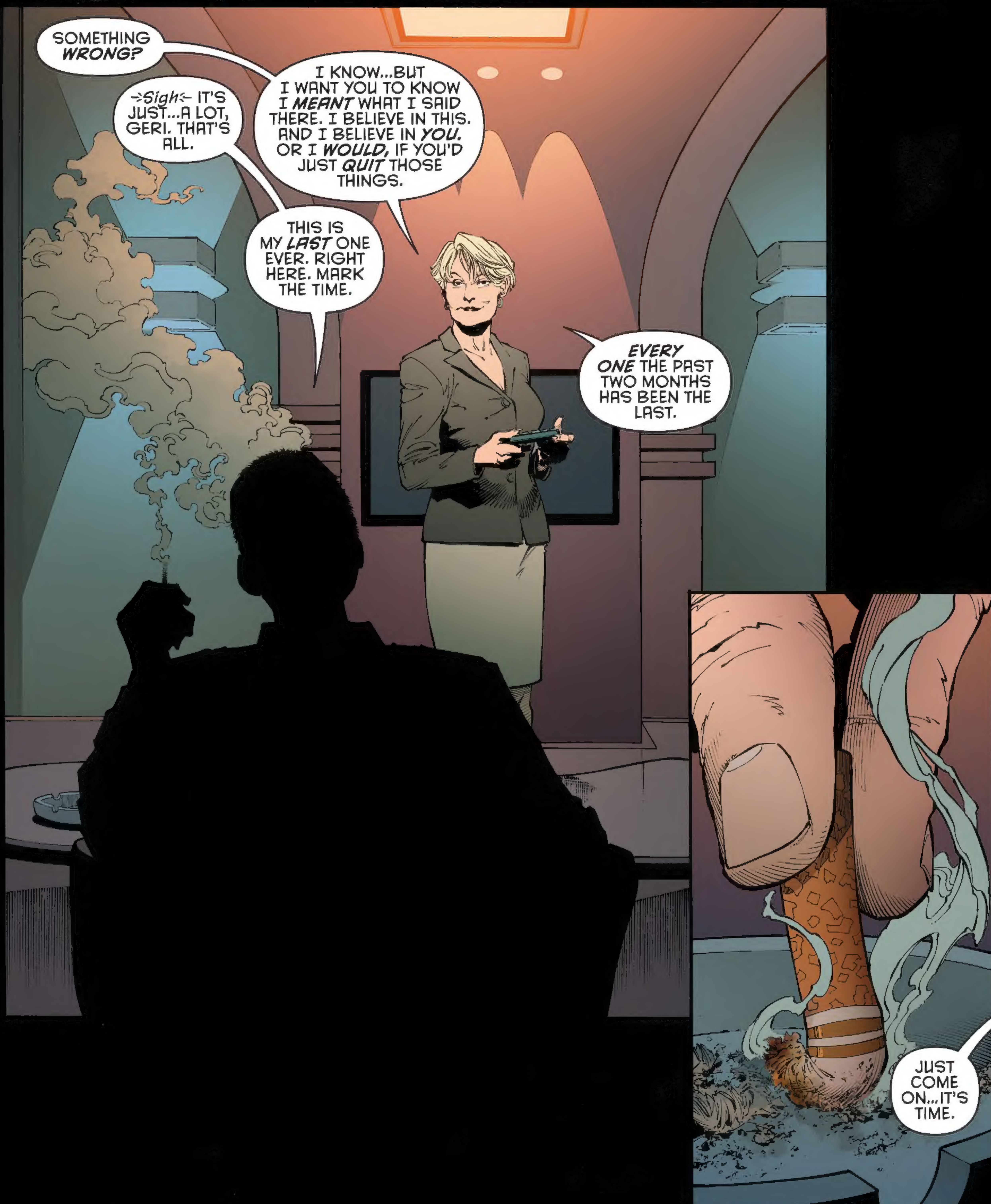
THERE IS NO
REPLACING BATMAN.
THE MAN WHO INSPIRED
US, WHO FOUGHT AND DIED
PROTECTING US...HE'LL
ALWAYS BE THE GREATEST
HERO THIS CITY HAS
EVER KNOWN.

BUT THE FACT
IS, THIS CITY *NEEDS*
A BATMAN. WE BELIEVE
THAT HERE. *I* BELIEVE IT,
DEEPLY AND TRULY. I
DIDN'T ALWAYS...UNTIL
WE LOST HIM, AND
NOW I DO.

AND WHILE
THERE'S NO REPLACING
THE ORIGINAL BATMAN,
MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO
HONOR HIM, BY
CARRYING ON HIS WORK
IN A *NEW* WAY.



SO HERE AT
POWERS, WE'VE BEEN
WORKING WITH THE MAYOR'S
OFFICE, WITH THE CITY
GOVERNMENT, EVEN WITH THE
POLICE FORCE, TO CREATE
SOMETHING *NEW*, FOR A NEW
CITY, A NEW ERA. SOMETHING
BRIGHT AND BOLD.
SOMETHING--



SOMETHING
WRONG?

⇒Sigh⇒ IT'S
JUST...A LOT,
GERI. THAT'S
ALL.

I KNOW...BUT
I WANT YOU TO KNOW
I **MEANT** WHAT I SAID
THERE. I BELIEVE IN THIS.
AND I BELIEVE IN **YOU**.
OR I **WOULD**, IF YOU'D
JUST **QUIT** THOSE
THINGS.

THIS IS
MY **LAST** ONE
EVER. RIGHT
HERE. MARK
THE TIME.

EVERY
ONE THE PAST
TWO MONTHS
HAS BEEN THE
LAST.

JUST
COME
ON...IT'S
TIME.

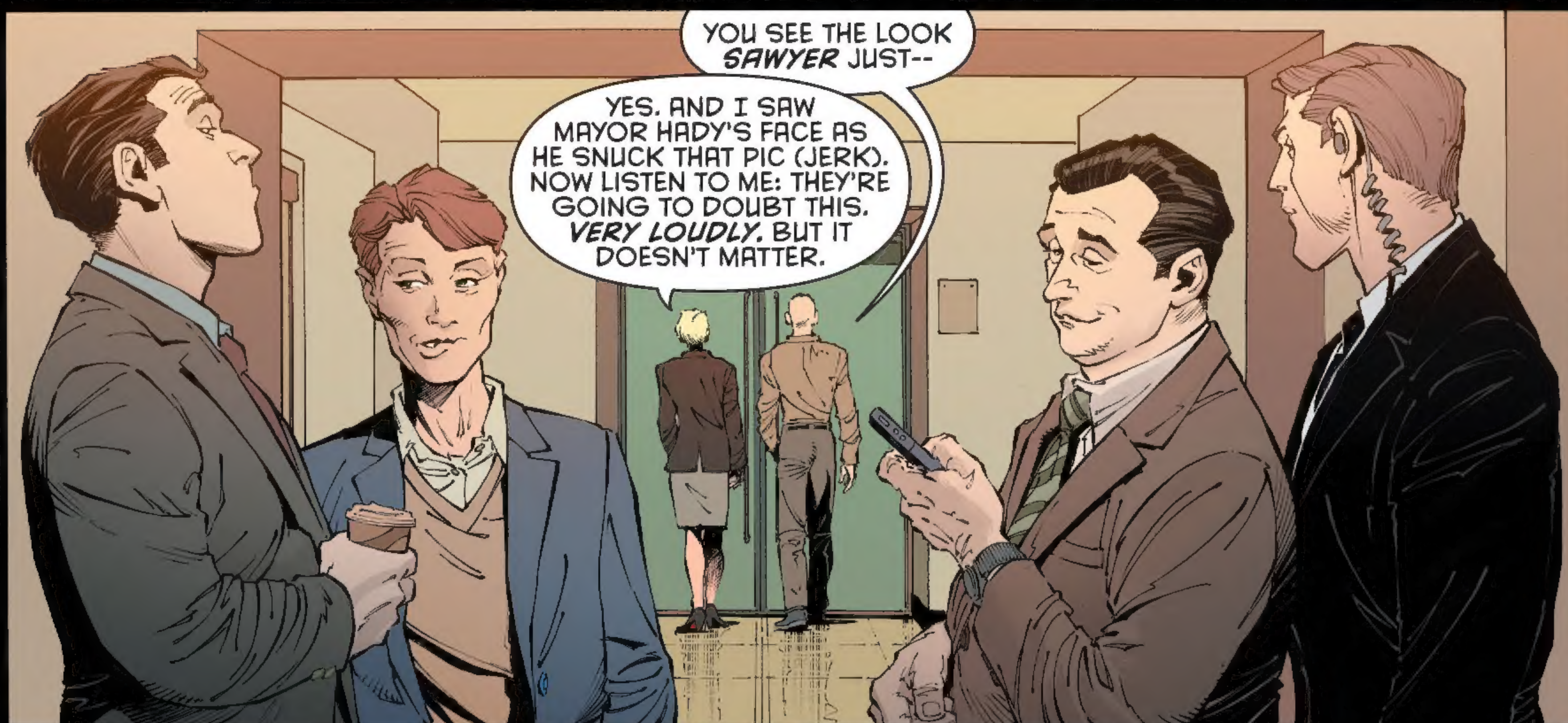


HOW DO I LOOK?

THE TRAINING PAID OFF. THE HAIR...IS A BIT MUCH.

IT'S HIGH AND TIGHT. I WAS A **MARINE**.

SO WAS I. THAT'S **NOT** HIGH AND TIGHT. NEXT TIME, DON'T DO IT YOURSELF.



YOU SEE THE LOOK **SAWYER** JUST--

YES. AND I SAW MAYOR HADY'S FACE AS HE SNUCK THAT PIC (JERK). NOW LISTEN TO ME: THEY'RE GOING TO DOUBT THIS. **VERY LOUDLY**. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.



WHAT MATTERS IS THE ANSWER TO **ONE QUESTION**.

AND THAT QUESTION IS...

ARE YOU READY TO BE **BATMAN...**



...COMMISSIONER GORDON?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.



POW



AND I'D LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SAYING THIS IS THE *DUMBEST* IDEA IN THE HISTORY OF GOTHAM CITY.



NOW WHERE'S MY DAMN BATMOBILE?

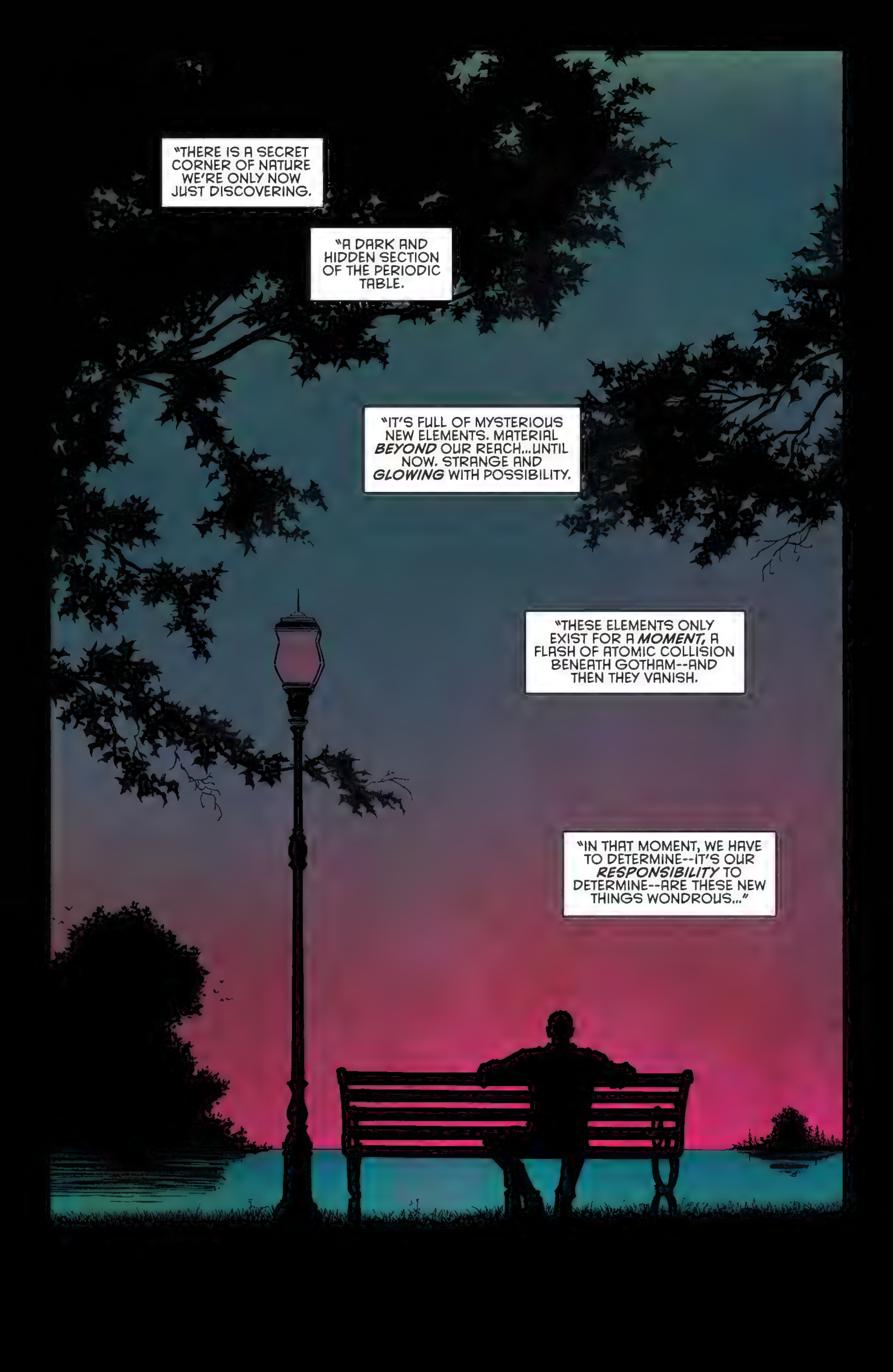
LET'S GO HAVE SOME *FUN*.



Capulla
is
fco



Capullo
5
RIP

A man is sitting on a wooden bench, facing away from the viewer, looking out over a body of water at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. A tall, ornate lamp post stands to the left of the bench. Large, dark trees frame the top and sides of the scene. The overall mood is contemplative and mysterious.

"THERE IS A SECRET
CORNER OF NATURE
WE'RE ONLY NOW
JUST DISCOVERING.

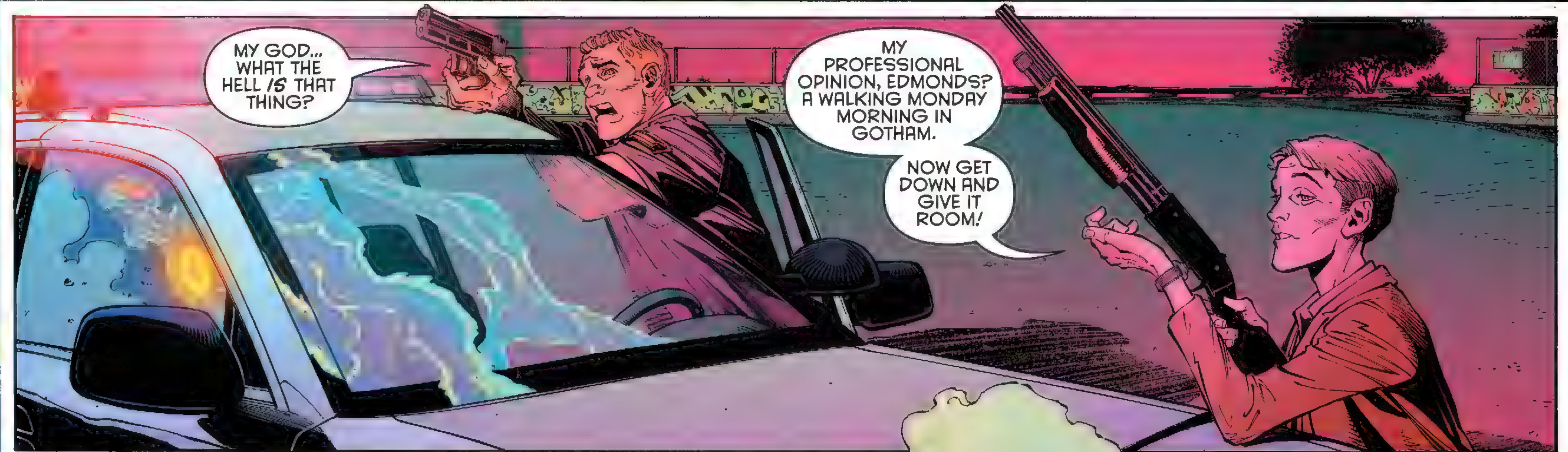
"A DARK AND
HIDDEN SECTION
OF THE PERIODIC
TABLE.

"IT'S FULL OF MYSTERIOUS
NEW ELEMENTS. MATERIAL
BEYOND OUR REACH...UNTIL
NOW. STRANGE AND
GLOWING WITH POSSIBILITY.

"THESE ELEMENTS ONLY
EXIST FOR A *MOMENT*, A
FLASH OF ATOMIC COLLISION
BENEATH GOTHAM--AND
THEN THEY VANISH.

"IN THAT MOMENT, WE HAVE
TO DETERMINE--IT'S OUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO
DETERMINE--ARE THESE NEW
THINGS WONDROUS..."

"...OR HORRIFYING?"
-- Geri Powers, CEO,
Powers International



"...IT."



Ah, I bet I know what you're thinking.

Yes, you.

You're thinking, the signal is supposed to shine up into the sky. Not down at the ground.

But then again, why not, right? Lately, it's almost like the whole city has been turned upside down.



Like it's been completely upended by Batman's death. Ever since--

AHEM. YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET. TELL ME YOU'RE NOT NAVEL-GAZING AGAIN.

BATMAN HAS NO NAVEL.





WHAT'S THE SITUATION, JULIA?

WE'RE SEEING ENERGY, BATMAN. SOME KIND OF WALKING BIOELECTRIC FIELD. WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S TEARING UP LITTLE CUBA IN THE NARROWS.



SPECIFICALLY, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S AFTER SOMETHING IN THE BANK AND CREDIT UNION AT 23RD AND PROSPECT.

I KNOW IT.

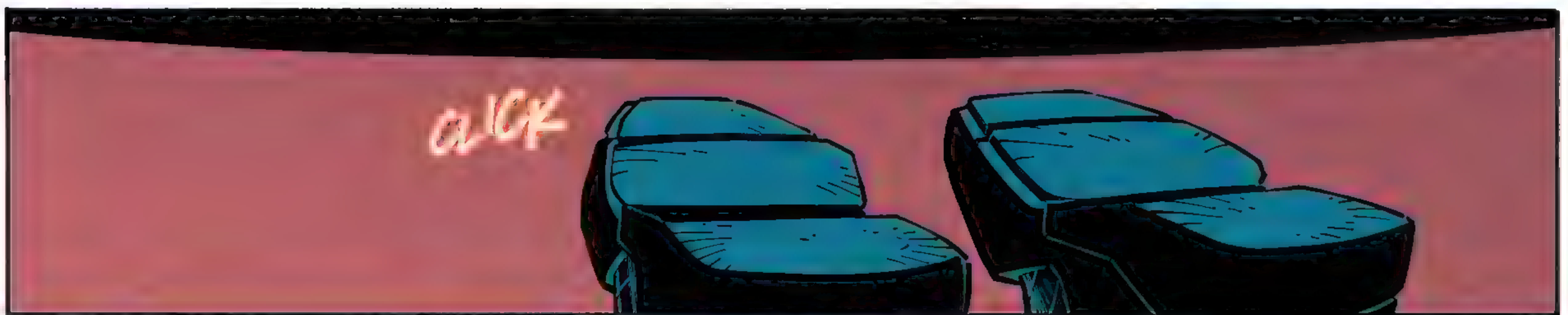
AND WE'RE GOOD TO GO. ANYTIME, BATMAN.



NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

THAT'S A GO. JUST REMEMBER... THINK BAT-THOUGHTS.

BAT-THOUGHTS. ONLY AND EVER.



CLICK

Bat-thoughts. Bat-thoughts. Bat-thoughts... all right, here we go.

First. You're not plummeting. You're swooping. Swooping.



Second, you did not leave the stove on.

Third, that doesn't even matter, because you are not Jim Gordon. Not today. Not anymore.

Right here, right now...

You...are...



...the
BATMAN.



You'll practice that.

Now, giant
energy-man,
what brings
you to Little
Cuba?!

I mean, sure, good people,
good food. Best baseball
player in Gotham history
lives here. Dodger Valera.
Five-ring catcher.

So what is it
you're here t--

BOOM!

BATMAN,
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?!

⇒Unh⇒ Bat-thoughts...
that hurt. A lot.

Damn, Jim...



...what the hell were you thinking?

WAITWAITWAIT. YOU WANT ME TO BE *WHO*?



THREE MONTHS EARLIER.

MS. POWERS, I--

GERI, PLEASE. AND DO ME A FAVOR, COMMISSIONER. JUST *LOOK* AT THEM.

GO ON. LOOK.

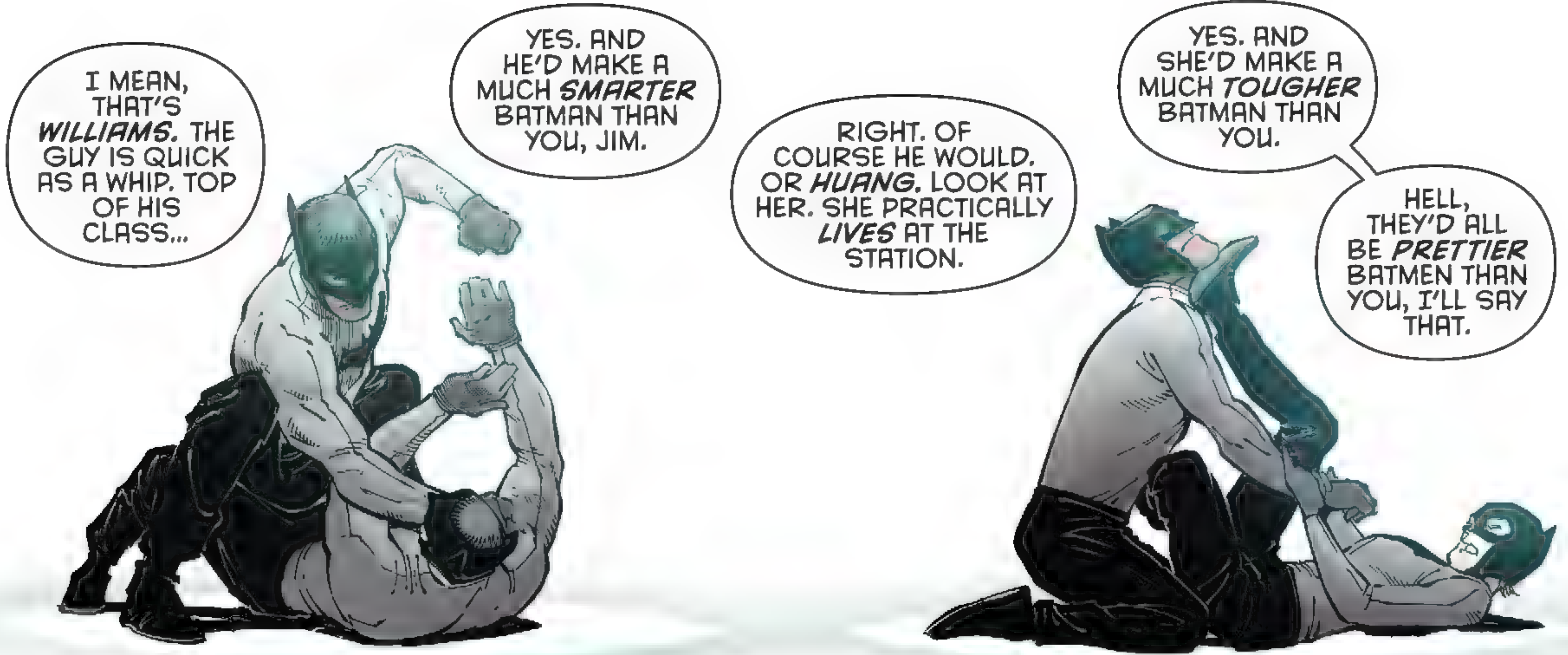


WHAT DO YOU SEE?



COPS.

BEST IN THE GRADUATING CLASS. WHICH IS WHY MY ASSUMPTION WAS THAT YOU WERE INVITING ME HERE TO HELP CHOOSE ONE OF *THEM* FOR THE PROGRAM.



I MEAN, THAT'S **WILLIAMS**. THE GUY IS QUICK AS A WHIP. TOP OF HIS CLASS...

YES. AND HE'D MAKE A MUCH **SMARTER** BATMAN THAN YOU, JIM.

RIGHT. OF COURSE HE WOULD. OR **HUANG**. LOOK AT HER. SHE PRACTICALLY **LIVES** AT THE STATION.

YES. AND SHE'D MAKE A MUCH **TOUGHER** BATMAN THAN YOU.

HELL, THEY'D ALL BE **PRETTIER** BATMEN THAN YOU, I'LL SAY THAT.



BUT NONE OF THEM WOULD BE THE **RIGHT** BATMAN.



YOU WERE A **MARINE**, COMMISSIONER. SO WAS I. THOSE KIDS, AND THEY **ARE** KIDS, THEY'LL GET **HURT** OUT THERE.

NOW THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS, THEY'D PREFER A YOUNGER BATMAN. A MORE FRESH-FACED BATMAN. EVEN THOUGH THE PUBLIC WON'T KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY. BUT ME? I BELIEVE IT **HAS** TO BE YOU.

FORGIVE ME, GERI, BUT... WHY?



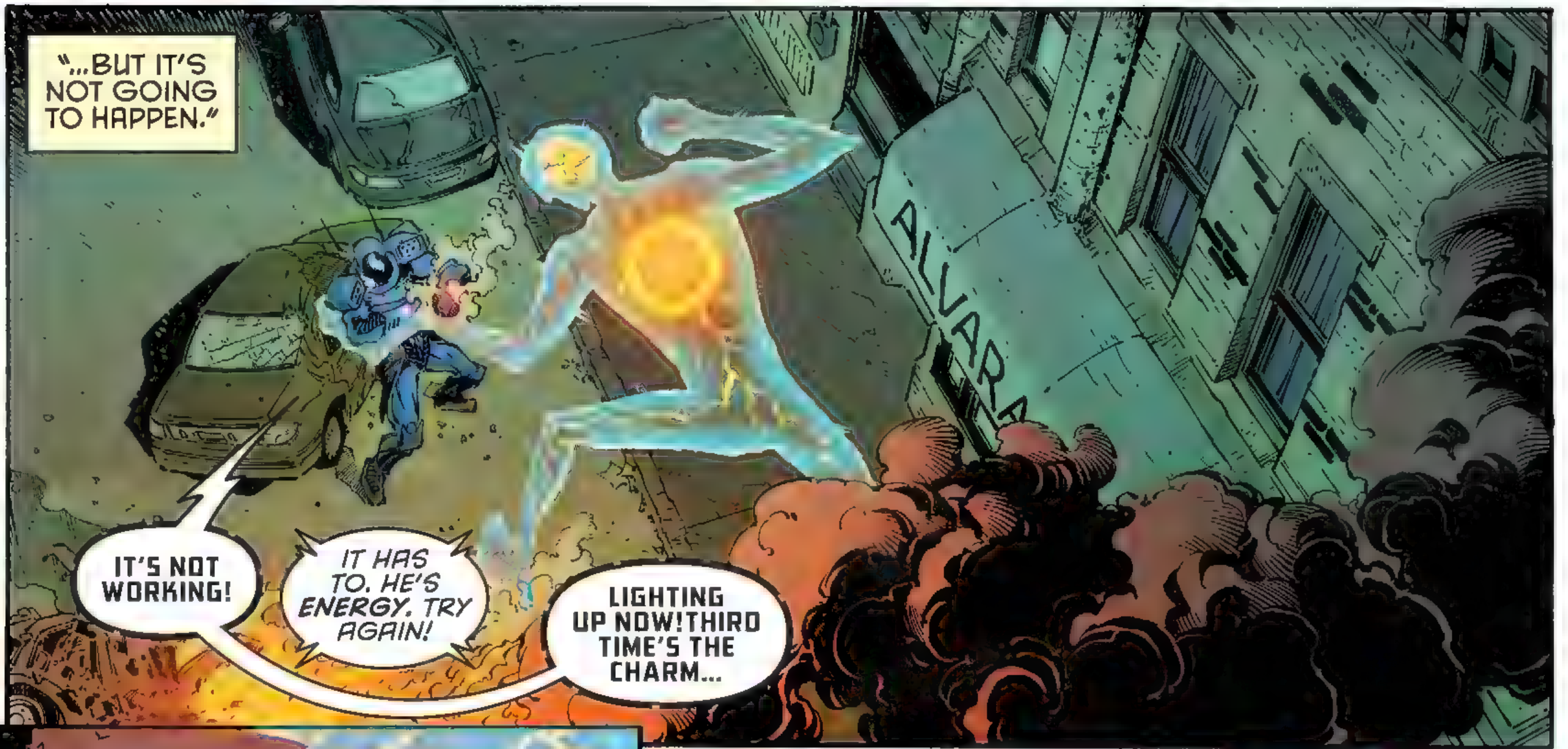
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE **CITY** BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. YOU'LL MAKE AN UGLY BATMAN, SURE. BUT YOU'LL MAKE THE **BEST** BATMAN. ONE THAT'LL LET ME SLEEP AT NIGHT, KNOWING THIS BATTERED, BEATEN CITY...IS SAFE.

LOOK, I KNOW THE IDEA IS SCARY. BATMAN IS THIS...TERRIFYING, GIANT THING. BUT IT'S JUST AN **ILLUSION**. HE WAS A **MAN**, JIM. THE RIGHT MAN AT THE TIME.

BUT YOU'RE THE RIGHT MAN **NOW**. I'M TELLING YOU. WHAT DO YOU SAY?



...
I'M SORRY...



"...BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN."

IT'S NOT WORKING!

IT HAS TO. HE'S ENERGY. TRY AGAIN!

LIGHTING UP NOW! THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM...



POOM



NOTHING. DAMMIT!

IT MAKES NO SENSE! AN EM PULSE SHOULD DISRUPT HIM AT LEAST.

UNLESS THE SOURCE IS SOMEWHERE OUT OF RANGE.



UNH! HOW FAR OUT OF RANGE, DARYL? WHERE?!

IT'D...IT'D HAVE TO BE CLOSE. I'D SAY... WITHIN A HALF MILE TO AVOID INTERFERENCE.



HALF A MI--
WAIT A MINUTE...



BATMAN,
WHATEVER YOU'RE
THINKING, YOU NEED
TO MOVE! IT'S
CHARGING THAT CAR,
TURNING IT INTO
A BOMB!

LISTEN TO ME.
IF ITS SOURCE IS
NEARBY, THAT
MEANS SOMEONE IS
CONTROLLING IT!

THEY'RE
PROJECTING THEIR
OWN BIOELECTRIC
FIELD.



BATMAN,
MOVE,
NOW!



NO.



DON'T
YOU SEE?

IT'S NOT A
MONSTER...



"...IT'S
JUST A BIG
TRICK."

YOU'RE MESSING
WITH ME, RIGHT?
APRIL FOOLS IN
SUMMER? HAR
HAR.

HAR HAR.
IF ONLY.

JIM, YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS.

I'M NOT.
I'M JUST
SAYING.



SAYING WHAT? CHRIST, YOU SAW THEIR
"BATMAN"? YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN THAT
HUNK OF METAL? YOU'RE *POLICE*, JIM. YOU'RE
TRENCHCOAT, THROUGH AND THROUGH.
AND I DON'T THINK THEY MAKE
TEN-FOOT TRENCHCOATS.

PLUS,
YOU *SMOKE*.
BATMAN CAN'T
SMOKE.

AND
YOU'RE
LIKE, WHAT,
SIXTY?



I'M
FORTY-SIX,
HARV.

OH.
SORRY.
BUT
STILL.

I KNOW.

JIM.



⇒Sigh⇒

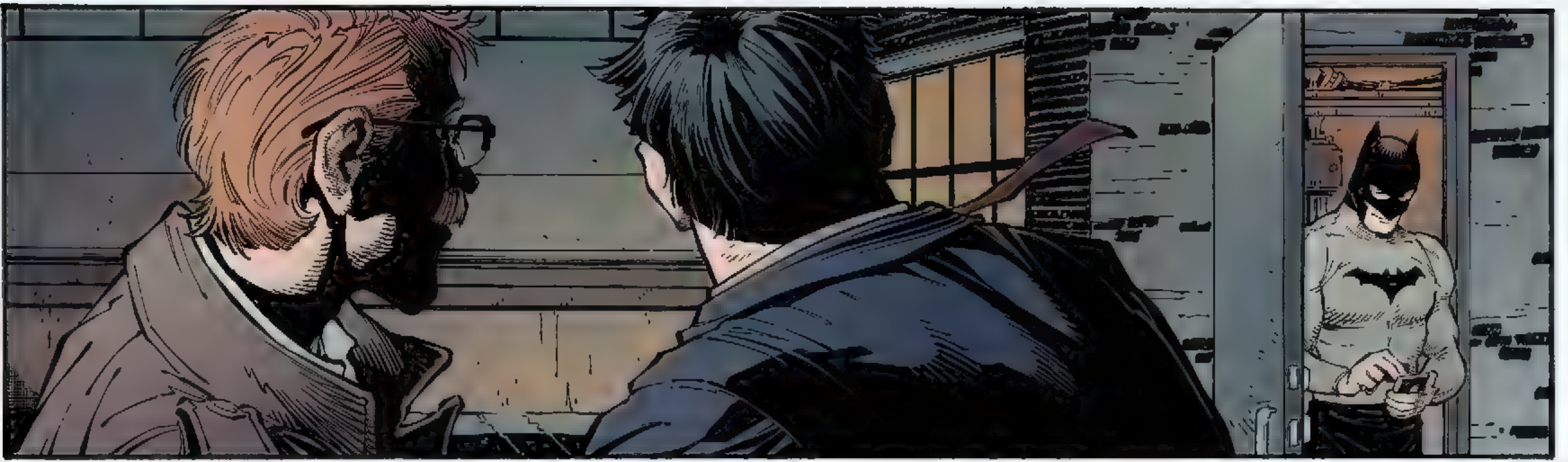
YOU'VE NEVER
WONDERED?
WHETHER HE'D HAVE
BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE
IF HE'D WORKED
WITHIN THE LAW, NOT
OUTSIDE IT?



IF BATMAN
COULD SHOW
PEOPLE THAT THE
SYSTEM CAN
WORK? THAT IT
CAN HELP
PEOPLE?

NO. NO, I DIDN'T. AND
LOOK, I GET THAT THE
DEPARTMENT DIDN'T DO THE
BEST JOB DURING THE LAST
JOKER ATTACK, ESPECIALLY
IN THE NARROWS, BUT YOU
CAN'T LET HER GET TO YOU
WITH THIS CADET THING. I
KNOW YOU'RE PROTECTIVE
OF THEM, BUT THEY'RE
CAPABLE. I'M TELLING
Y--

GREENPARK



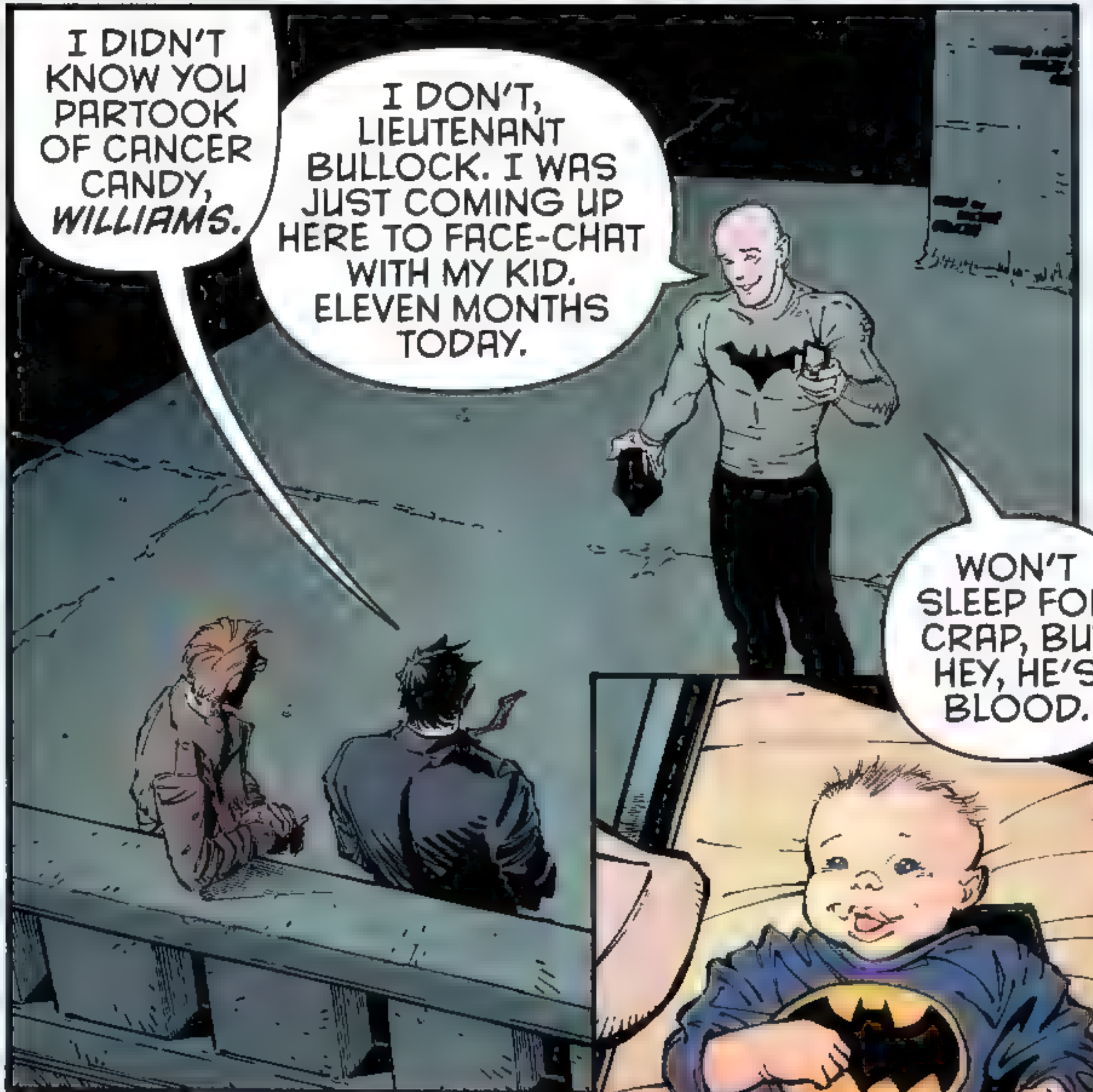
NOT FEELING TOO *STEALTHY* TONIGHT, BATS?

OH, SORRY, I WAS JUST SHOWING THIS STUFF OFF.



I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PARTOOK OF CANCER CANDY, *WILLIAMS*.

I DON'T, LIEUTENANT BULLOCK. I WAS JUST COMING UP HERE TO FACE-CHAT WITH MY KID. ELEVEN MONTHS TODAY.



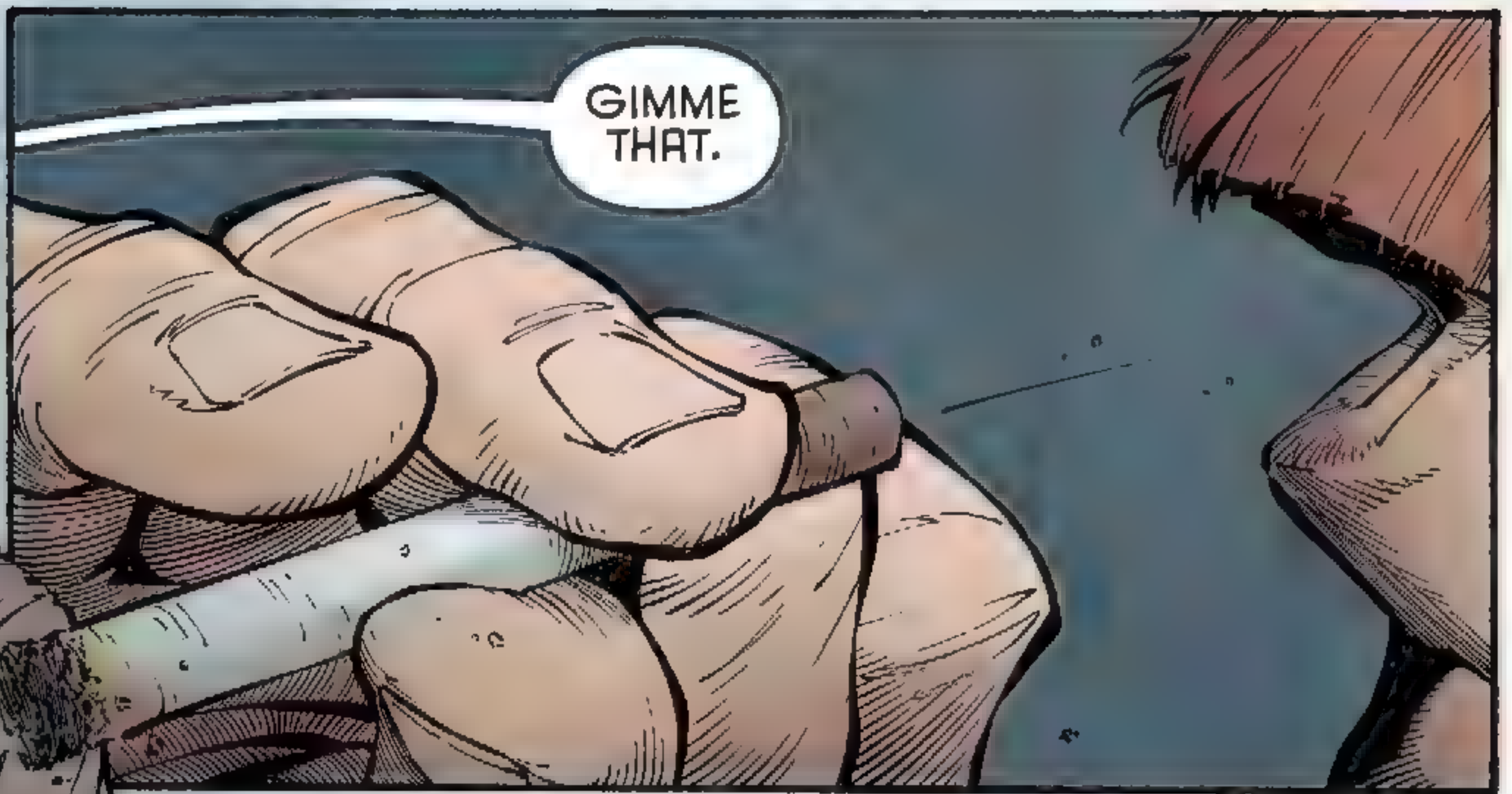
WON'T SLEEP FOR CRAP, BUT HEY, HE'S BLOOD.



CUTE. GO ON. DON'T MIND US.



GIMME THAT.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET *LASIK*, RIGHT?



"THE EYES. HOW DO I WORK THEM?!"



ON IT.
WHAT ARE WE
LOOKING
FOR?

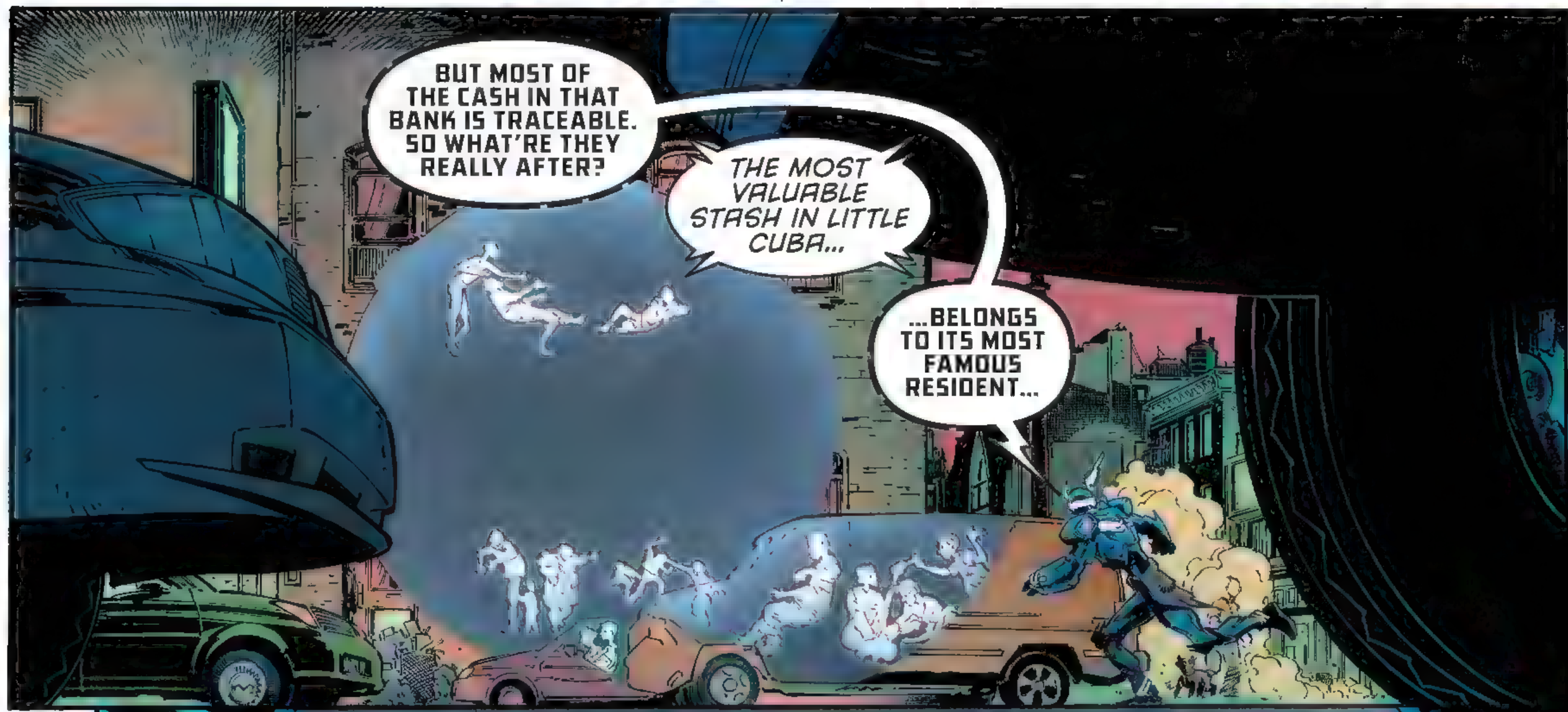
UNH!
SOMEONE
STEALING
HOME!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
IF--



THE MONSTER
IS AN EXTENSION
OF A PARTICULAR
CRIMINAL. AND WHAT
DO WE KNOW
ABOUT THEM?

THEY WERE
ATTACKING A
BANK.



BUT MOST OF
THE CASH IN THAT
BANK IS TRACEABLE.
SO WHAT'RE THEY
REALLY AFTER?

THE MOST
VALUABLE
STASH IN LITTLE
CUBA...

...BELONGS
TO ITS MOST
FAMOUS
RESIDENT...



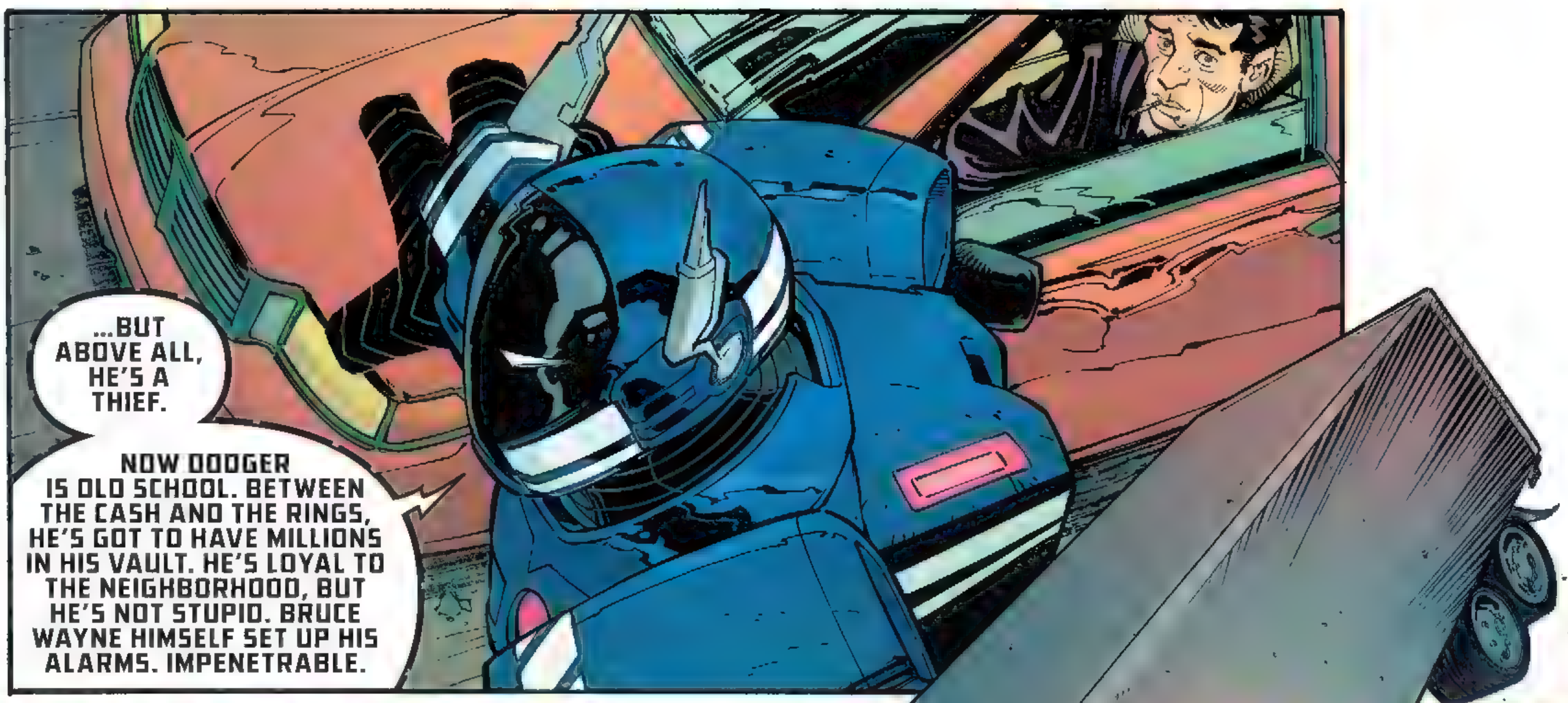
DODGER
VALERA.

Huh.
LOOK AT
THAT. BATMAN
SWINGS AND
CONNECTS!

STRANGE,
THE POWER SOURCE
SEEMS TO BE COMING
FROM INSIDE THE PERP.
WE HAVE IDENTIFICATION,
THOUGH. HIS
NAME IS--

PRECIOUS
PRECIOUS. YES, HIS
REAL NAME. I KNOW
HIM WELL. FOUNDING
MEMBER OF THE CUBAN
BRANCH OF THE
INFAMOUS WHISPER
GANG.

UPON INITIATION,
THE GANG MAKES ITS
MEMBERS WEAR METAL
MASKS FOR A YEAR TO PROVE
THEIR DEDICATION. PRECIOUS
OPTED TO KEEP HIS ON FOR
THREE. HENCE THE SCARS.
MURDER, EXTORTION...



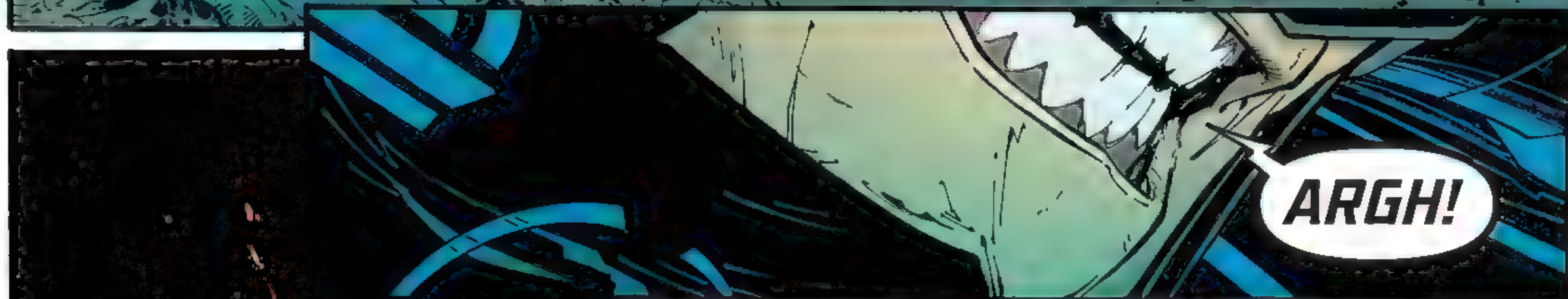
...BUT
ABOVE ALL,
HE'S A
THIEF.

NOW DODGER
IS OLD SCHOOL. BETWEEN
THE CASH AND THE RINGS,
HE'S GOT TO HAVE MILLIONS
IN HIS VAULT. HE'S LOYAL TO
THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT
HE'S NOT STUPID. BRUCE
WAYNE HIMSELF SET UP HIS
ALARMS. IMPENETRABLE.



BATMAN!

THOSE ALARMS
ARE GOING OFF
RIGHT NOW, BUT
NO ONE IS NOTICING.
NOT WITH ALL THE
RUCKUS GOING
ON OUT--

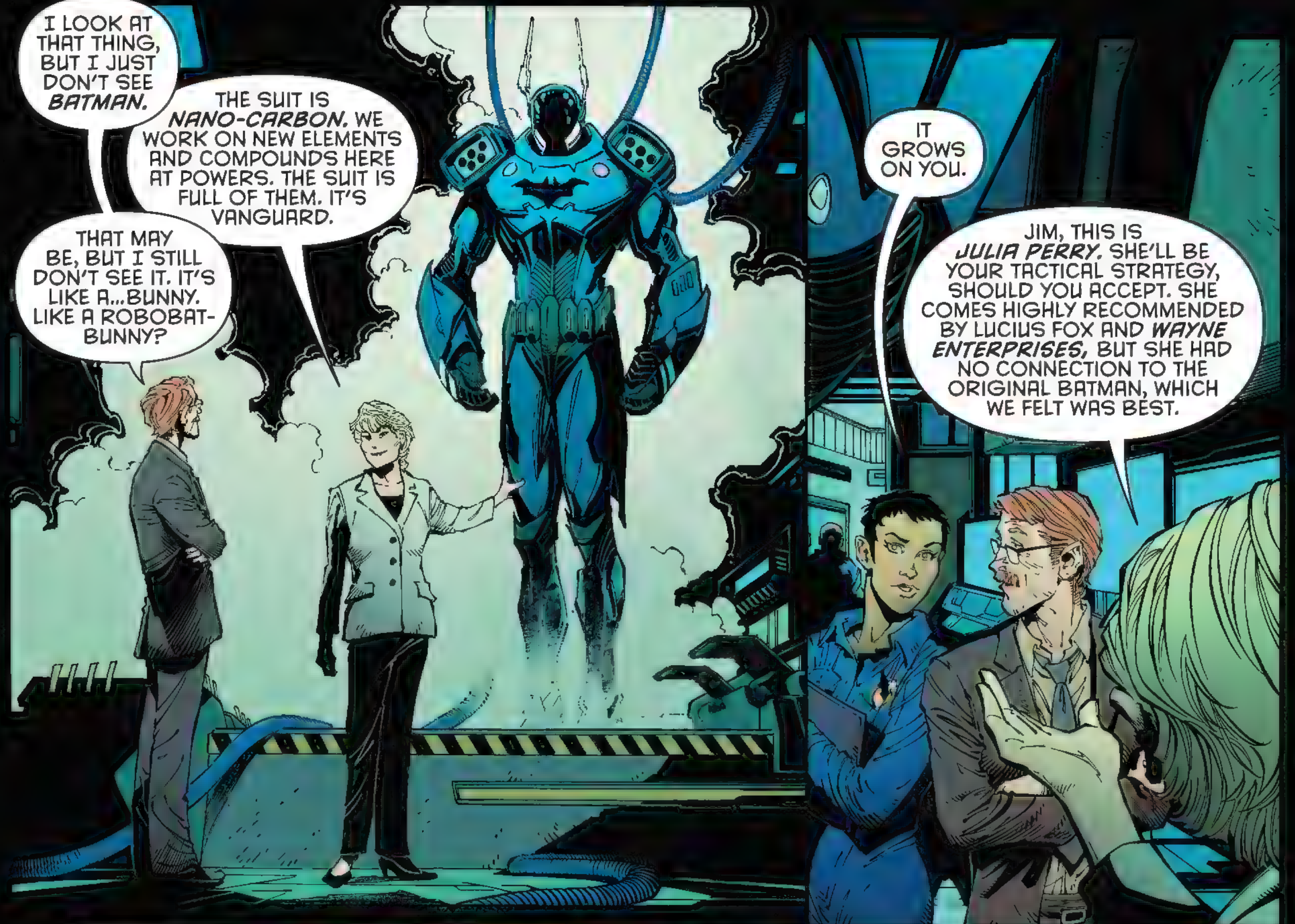


ARGH!



BATMAN!
BATMAN ARE
YOU THERE?!

"I CAN'T
FIND HIM..."



I LOOK AT THAT THING, BUT I JUST DON'T SEE **BATMAN**.

THE SUIT IS **NANO-CARBON**. WE WORK ON NEW ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS HERE AT POWERS. THE SUIT IS FULL OF THEM. IT'S VANGUARD.

THAT MAY BE, BUT I STILL DON'T SEE IT. IT'S LIKE A...BUNNY. LIKE A ROBObAT-BUNNY?

IT GROWS ON YOU.

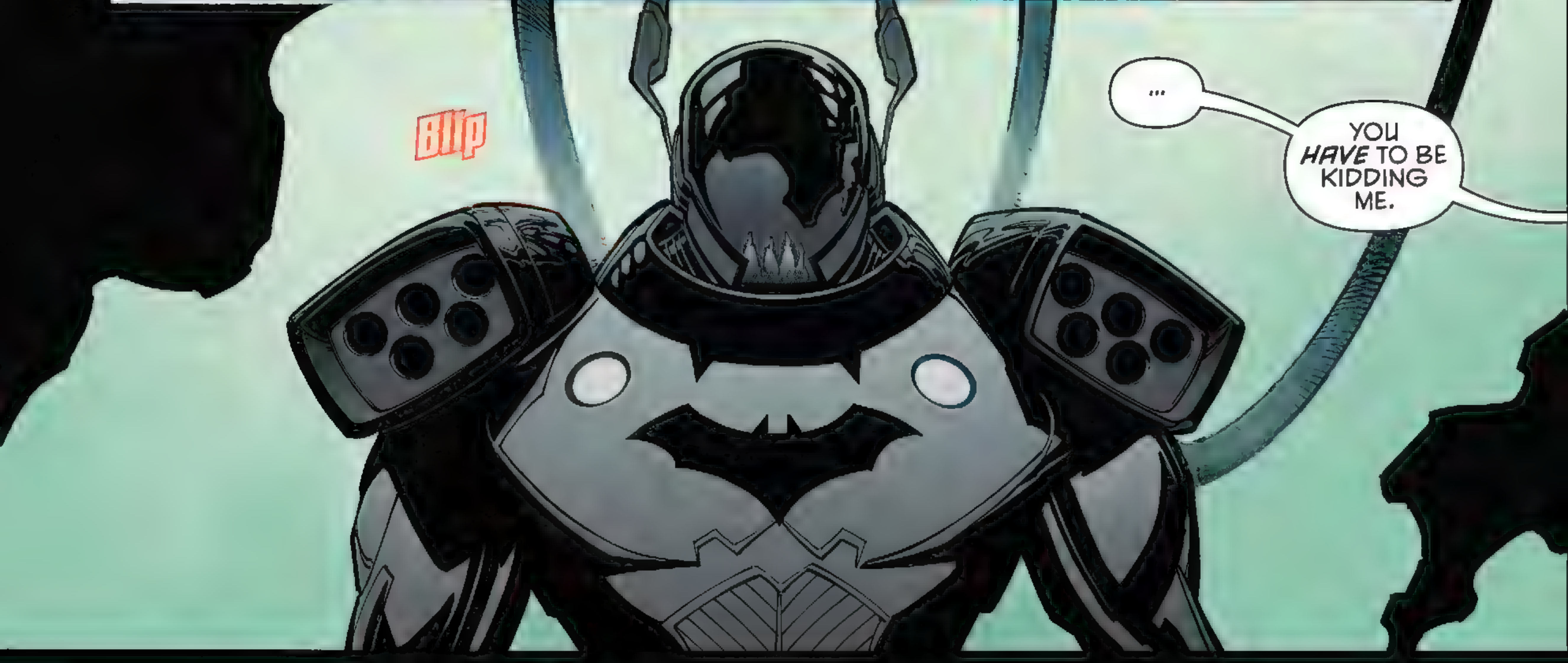
JIM, THIS IS **JULIA PERRY**. SHE'LL BE YOUR TACTICAL STRATEGY, SHOULD YOU ACCEPT. SHE COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY LUCIUS FOX AND **WAYNE ENTERPRISES**, BUT SHE HAD NO CONNECTION TO THE ORIGINAL BATMAN, WHICH WE FELT WAS BEST.



WAIT. IS IT THE SUIT'S **COLORS** YOU DON'T LIKE?

AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT. THIS IS **DARYL GUTIERREZ**. HE'S LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUIT'S **DESIGN**. WINNER OF THE CROWNE YOUNG GENIUS GRANT.

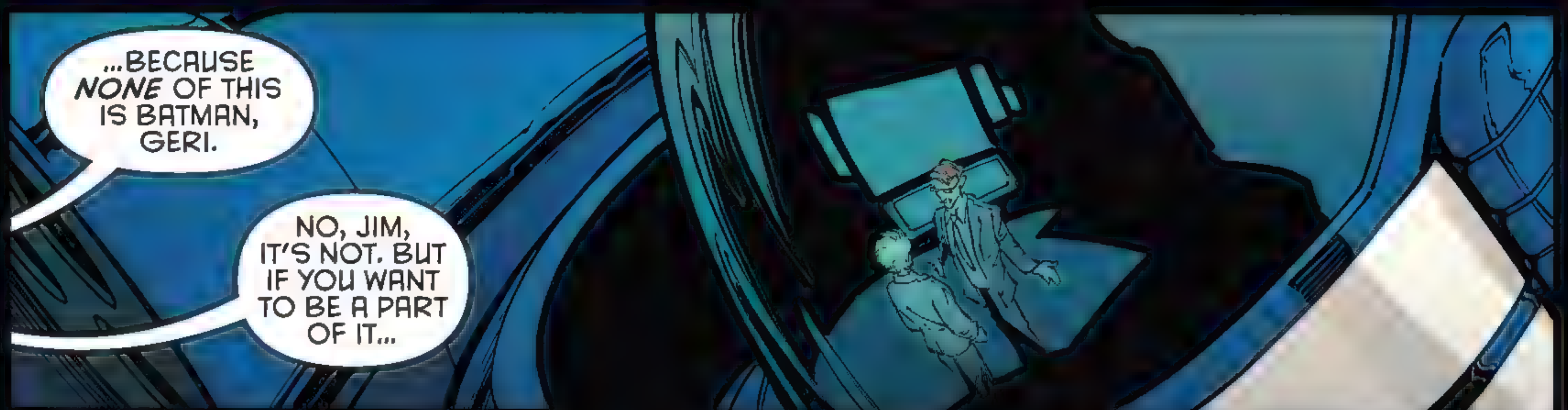
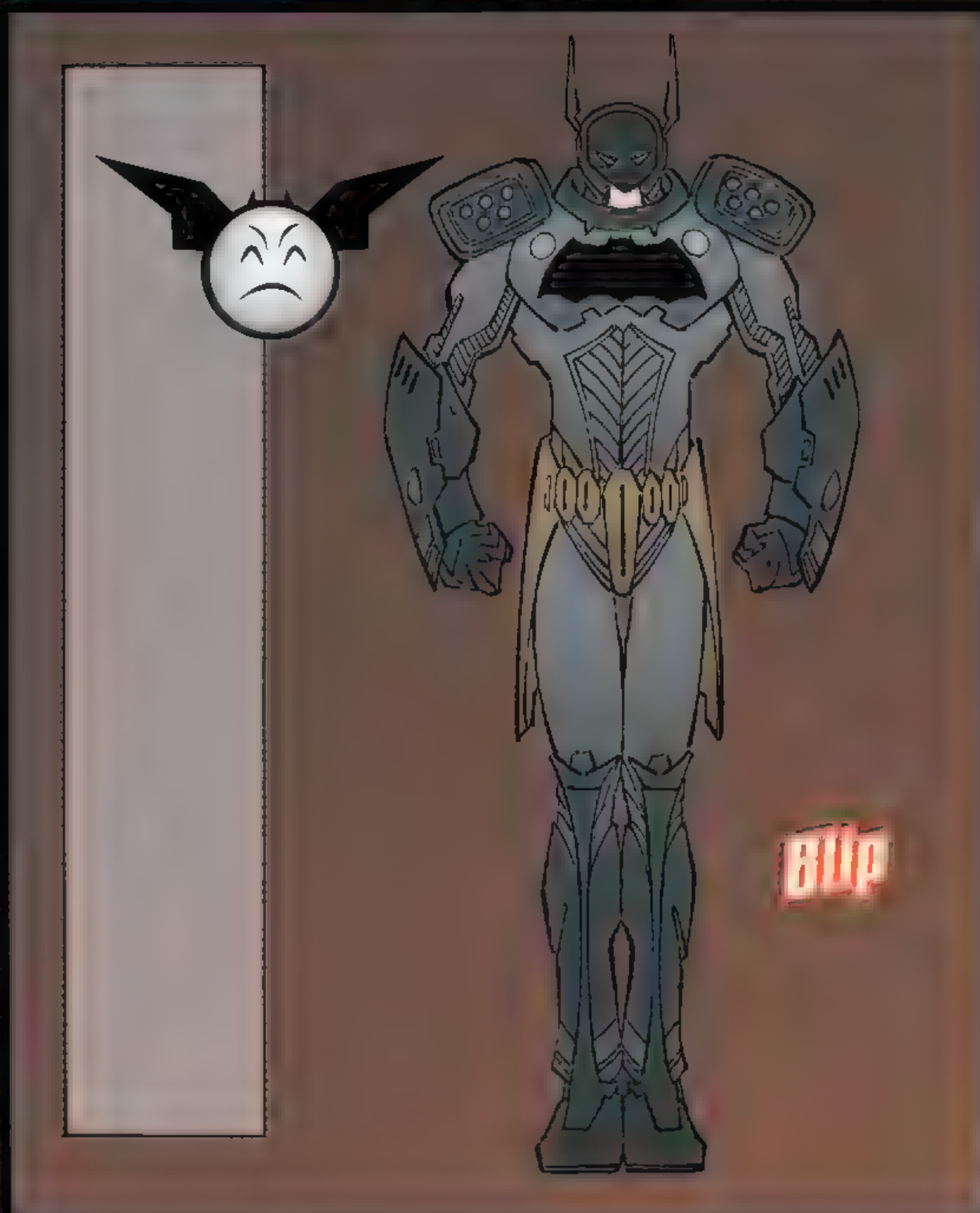
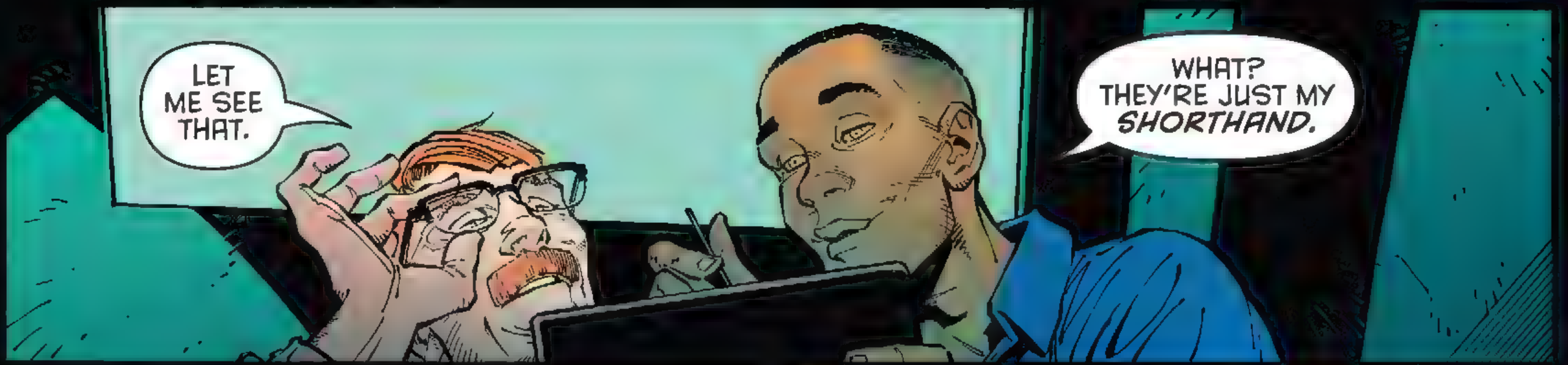
IF IT'S THE **COLORS**, I CAN CHANGE THEM. SEE?

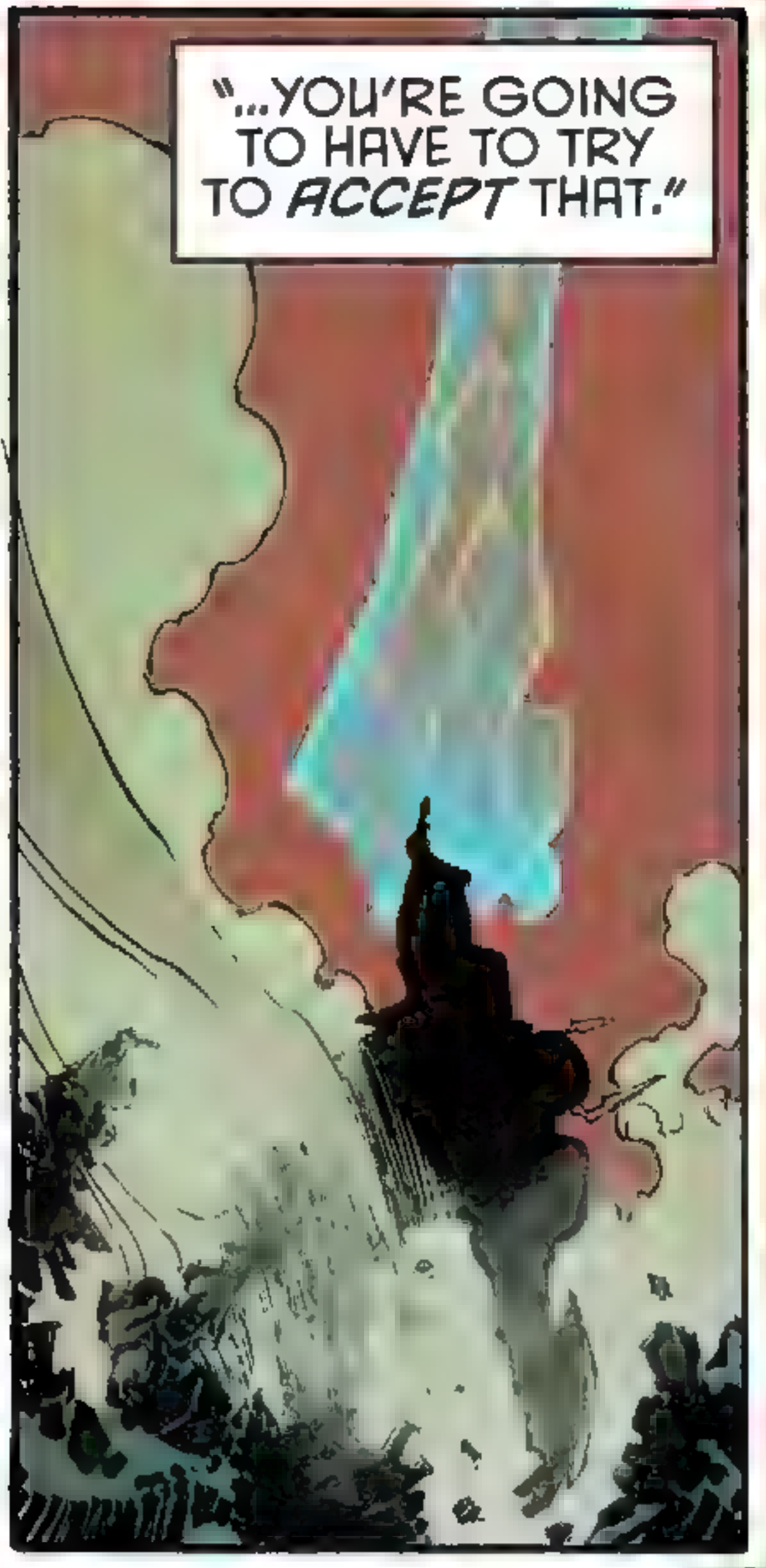


BIP

...

YOU **HAVE** TO BE KIDDING ME.





"...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY TO *ACCEPT* THAT."



HA! GOT YOU! AND NOW, DOWN WITH FALSE IDOLS.



FALSE IDOLS?

AT LEAST HE'S TRYING TO DO *GOOD*. LOOK AT YOU... YOU'RE A DISGRACE. *-COUGH-* A HUMAN ZERO. NOTHING.

Huh. AND HERE I WAS GOING TO LET YOU LIVE...

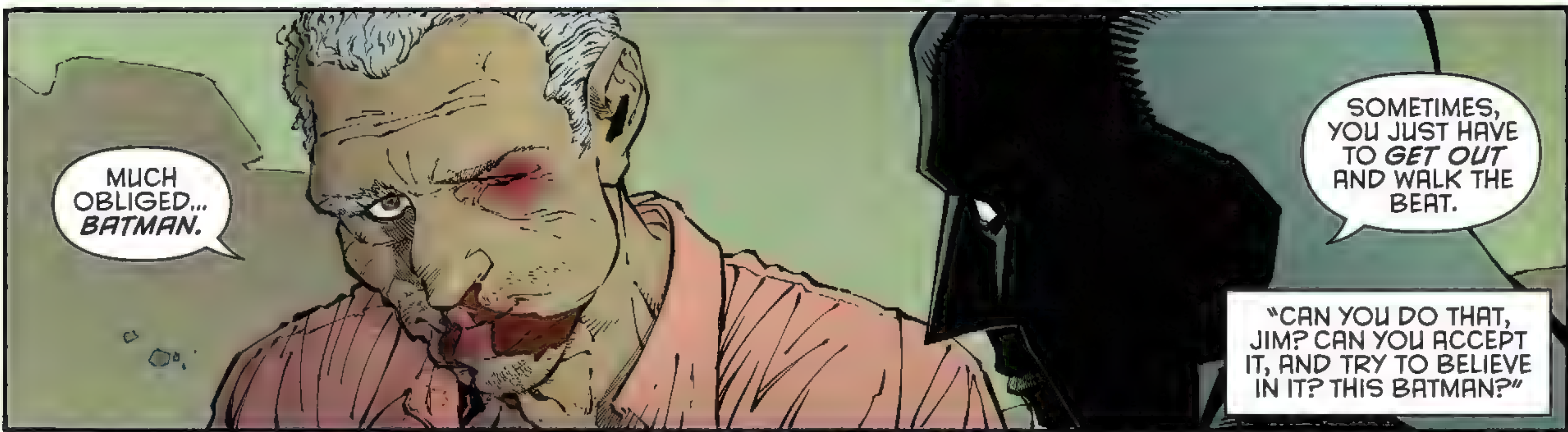


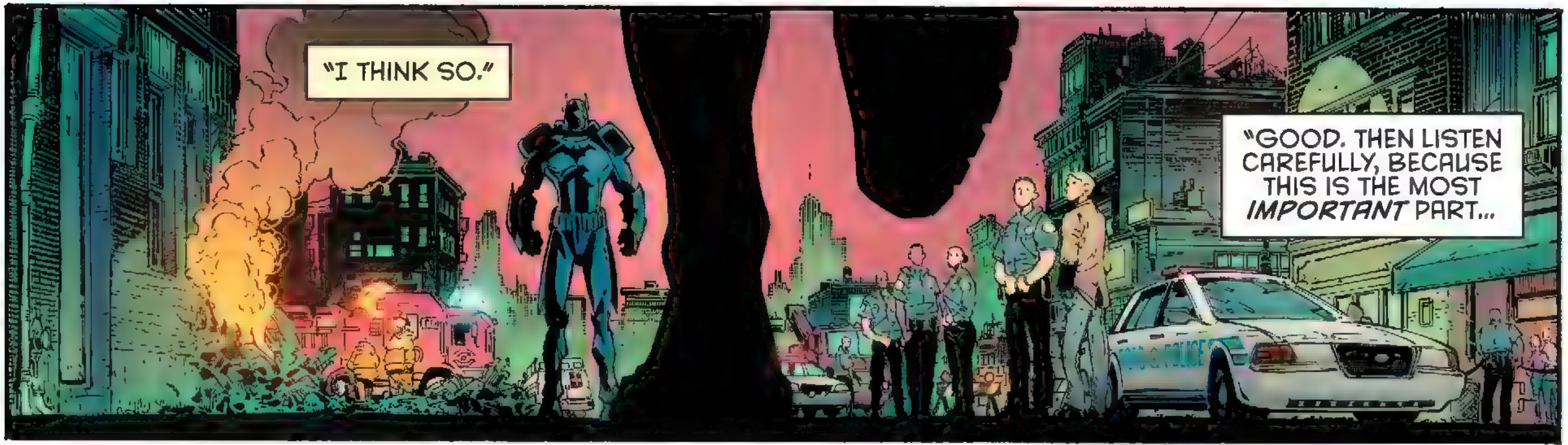
CLICK

WHERE'S YOUR HERO NOW, EH? THAT THING OUTSIDE? IT'S JUST METAL AND LIGHTS.

IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE BATMAN. NOT ONE B--

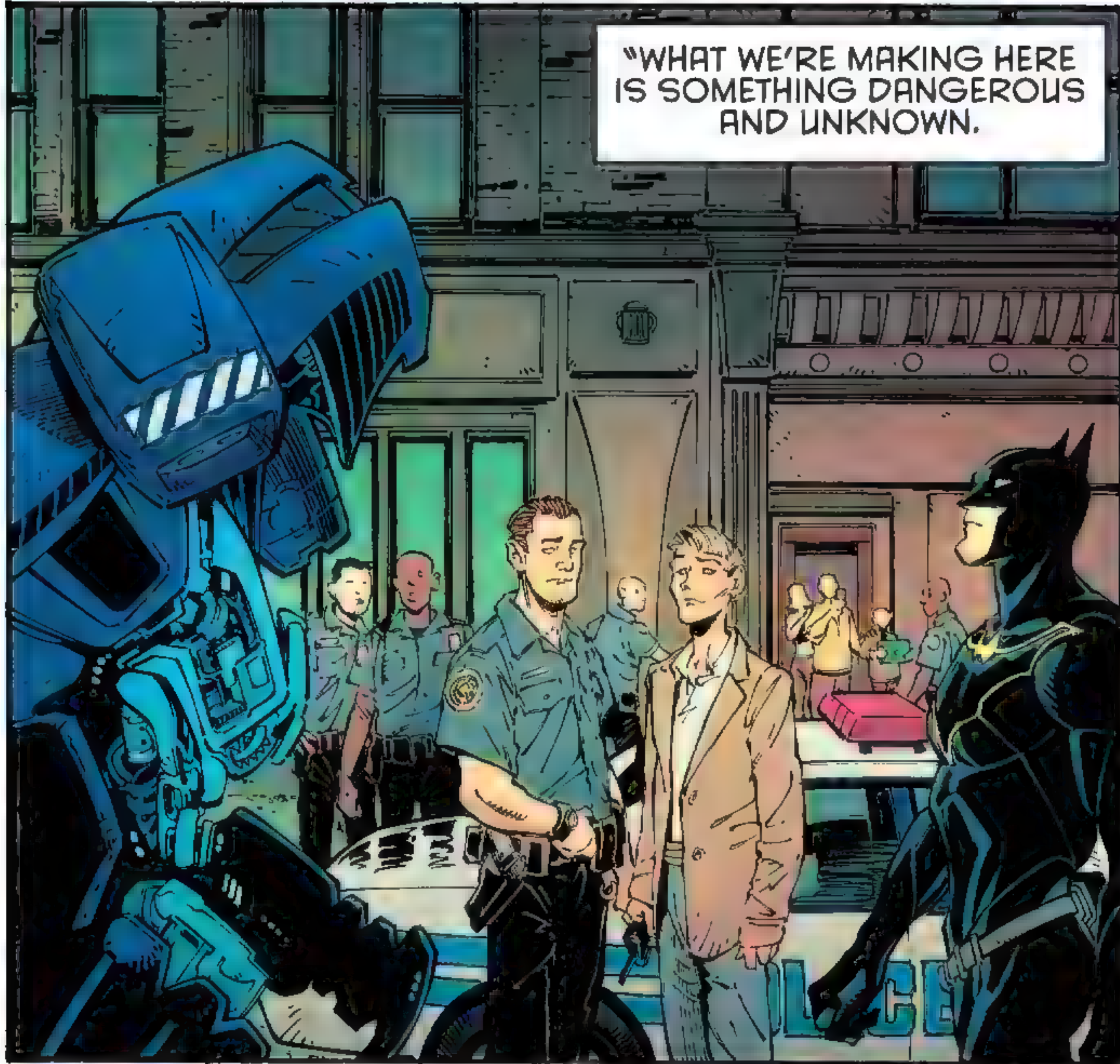






"I THINK SO."

"GOOD. THEN LISTEN CAREFULLY, BECAUSE THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART..."



"WHAT WE'RE MAKING HERE IS SOMETHING DANGEROUS AND UNKNOWN."



"YOU WILL BE A NEW BATMAN, IF YOU DO THIS, JIM."



"YOU WON'T *BE* POLICE, YOU'LL WORK WITH THEM. WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE PEOPLE, TOO. YOU'LL BE A BATMAN THAT HAS CHECKS AND BALANCES."

"YOU'LL BE A *BETTER* BATMAN, BETTER FOR THIS GOTHAM, THIS MOMENT."



"SOMETHING INSPIRING."



"AND YOU'LL LIVE IN AN APARTMENT IN OUR MAIN FACILITY. IT'LL BE YOUR HOME. YOUR 'CAVE.'"

"NOW, THE PUBLIC WON'T KNOW YOUR IDENTITY, BUT THE FEW THAT *NEED* TO KNOW, WILL."

"YOU'LL HAVE TO TRAIN, TO *TRANSFORM* YOURSELF."



"SO, JIM GORDON...WHAT DO YOU SAY?"



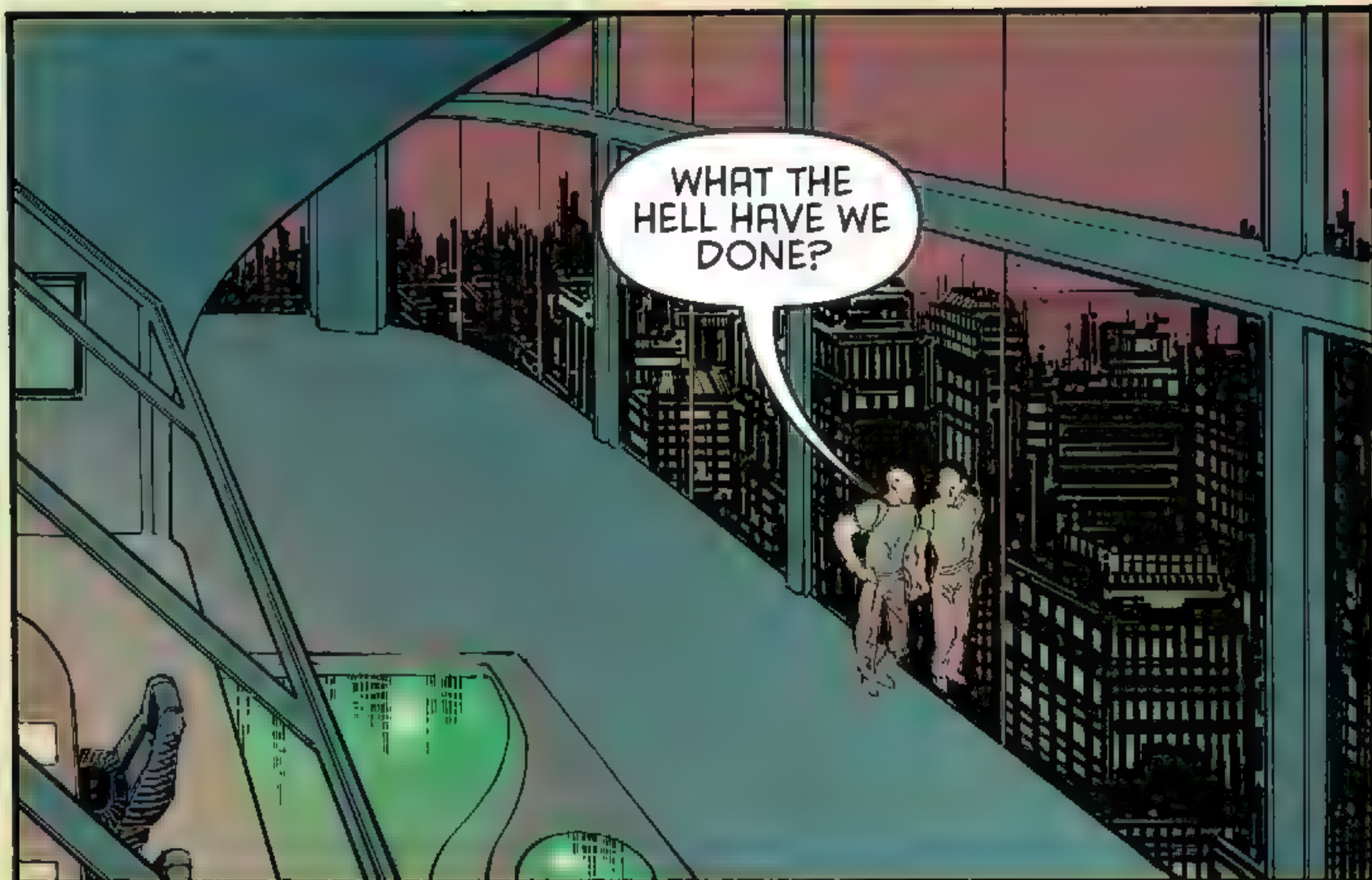
Heh.



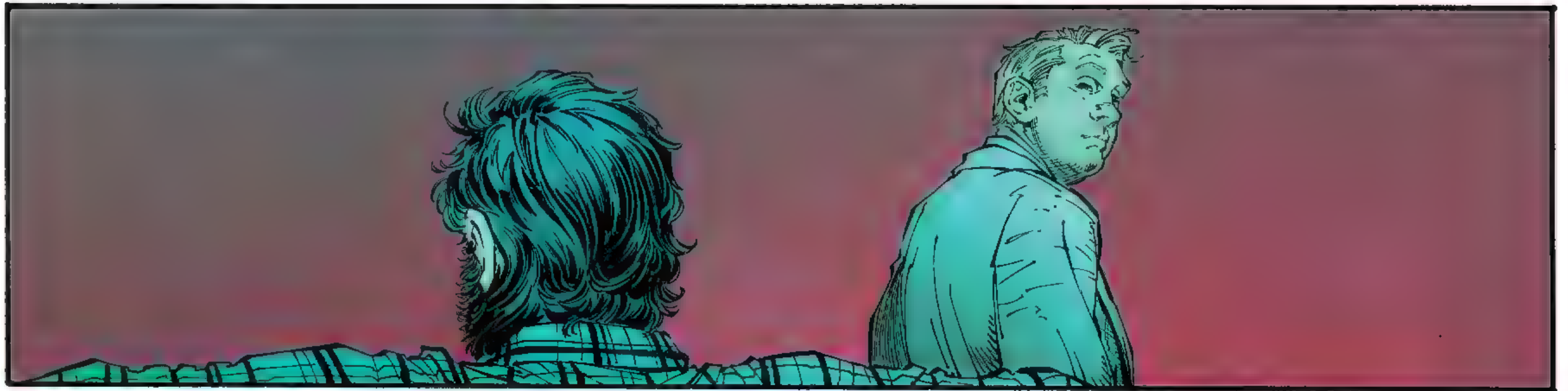
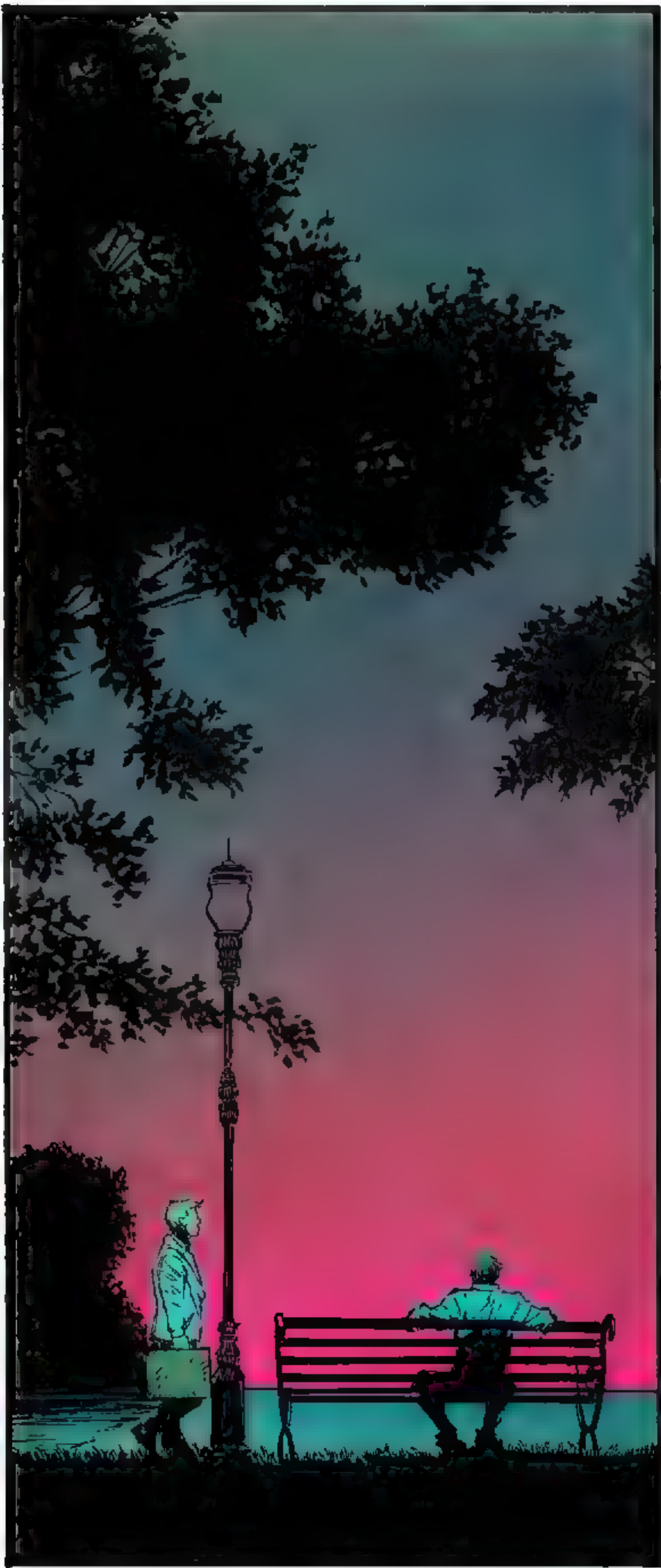
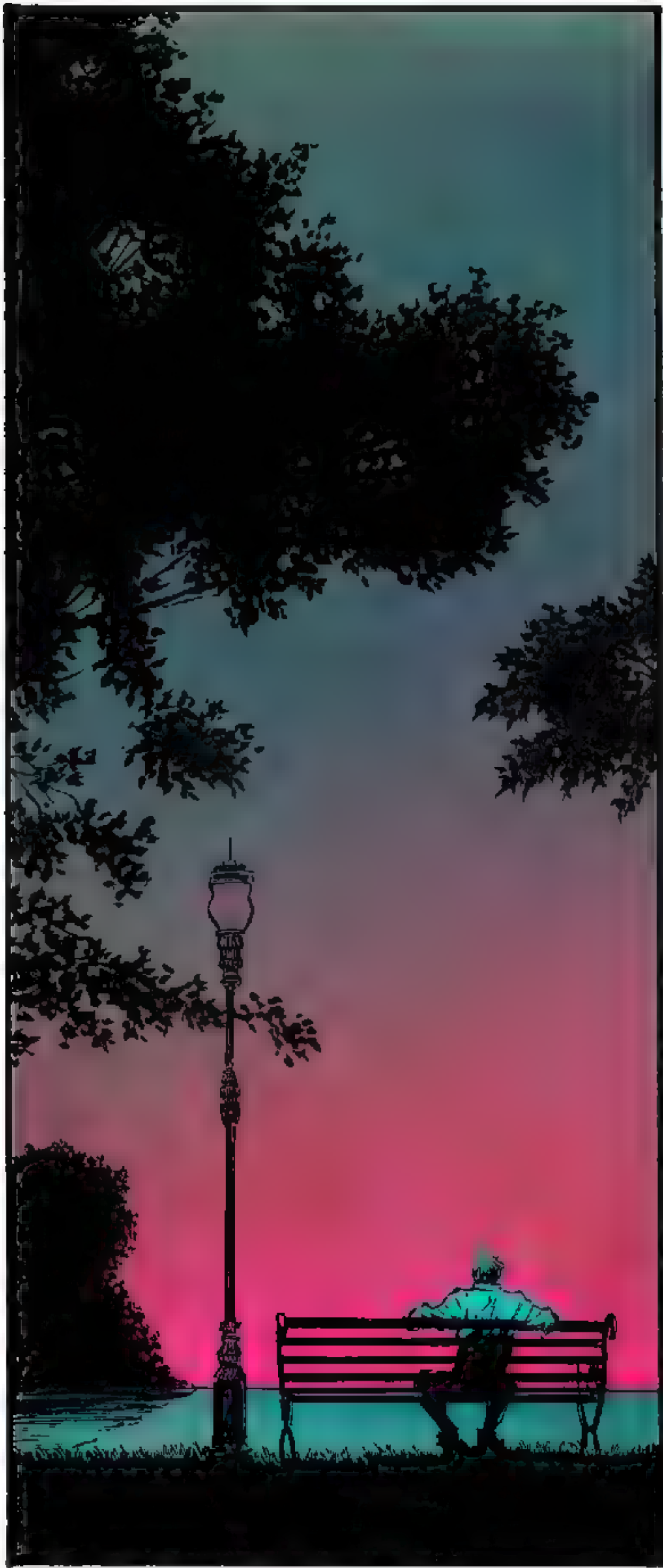
I GUESS THEY'LL HAVE TO START MAKING THESE DAMN THINGS
- HARV



"I SAY..."



WHAT THE HELL HAVE WE DONE?



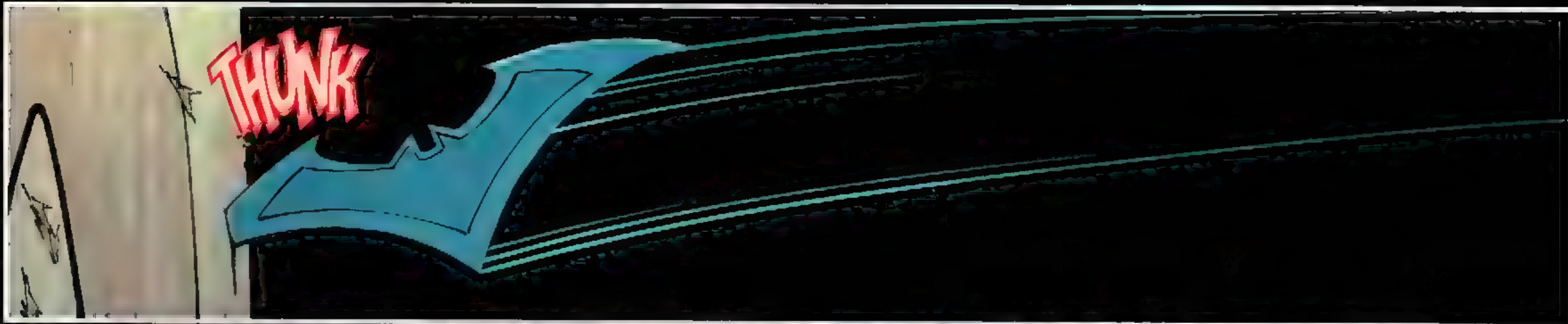




I DON'T
CARE WHAT
ANYONE SAYS.
THIS IS BATMAN.
THAT'S JUST
TRUTH.

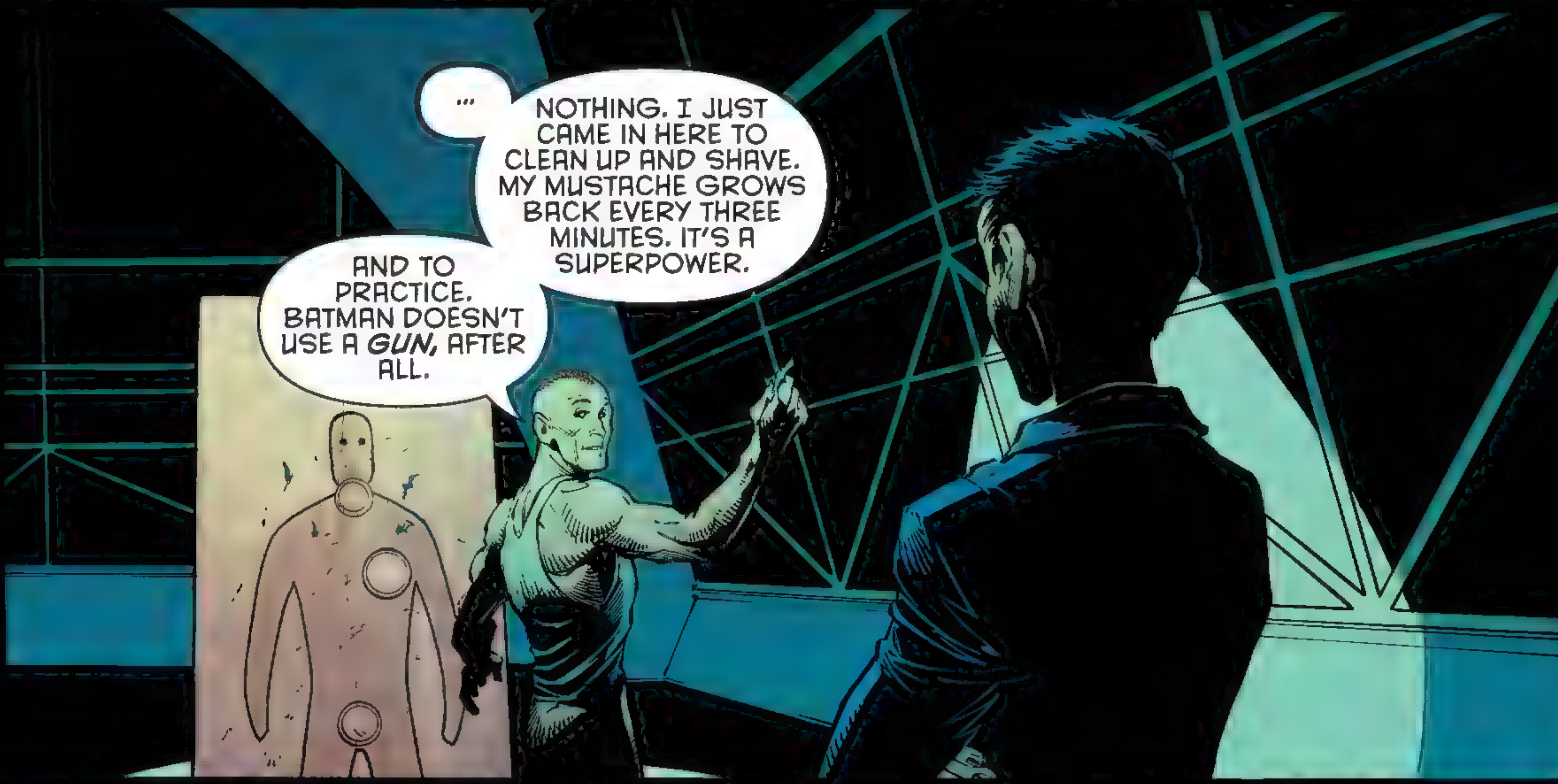
THAT THING?
YOU CAN PUMP OUT
AS MANY TOYS AS YOU
LIKE, BUT *uh-uh*. NO.
I MEAN, COME ON, HE
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE
A DAMN
BATMOBILE!





YOU
DON'T EVEN
HAVE A DAMN
BATMOBILE.

IT'S ALWAYS
ABOUT THE CAR,
ISN'T IT? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
DOWN HERE?



AND TO
PRACTICE.
BATMAN DOESN'T
USE A *GUN*, AFTER
ALL.

...
NOTHING. I JUST
CAME IN HERE TO
CLEAN UP AND SHAVE.
MY MUSTACHE GROWS
BACK EVERY THREE
MINUTES. IT'S A
SUPERPOWER.



BUT
YOU'RE
DOING ALL
RIGHT?

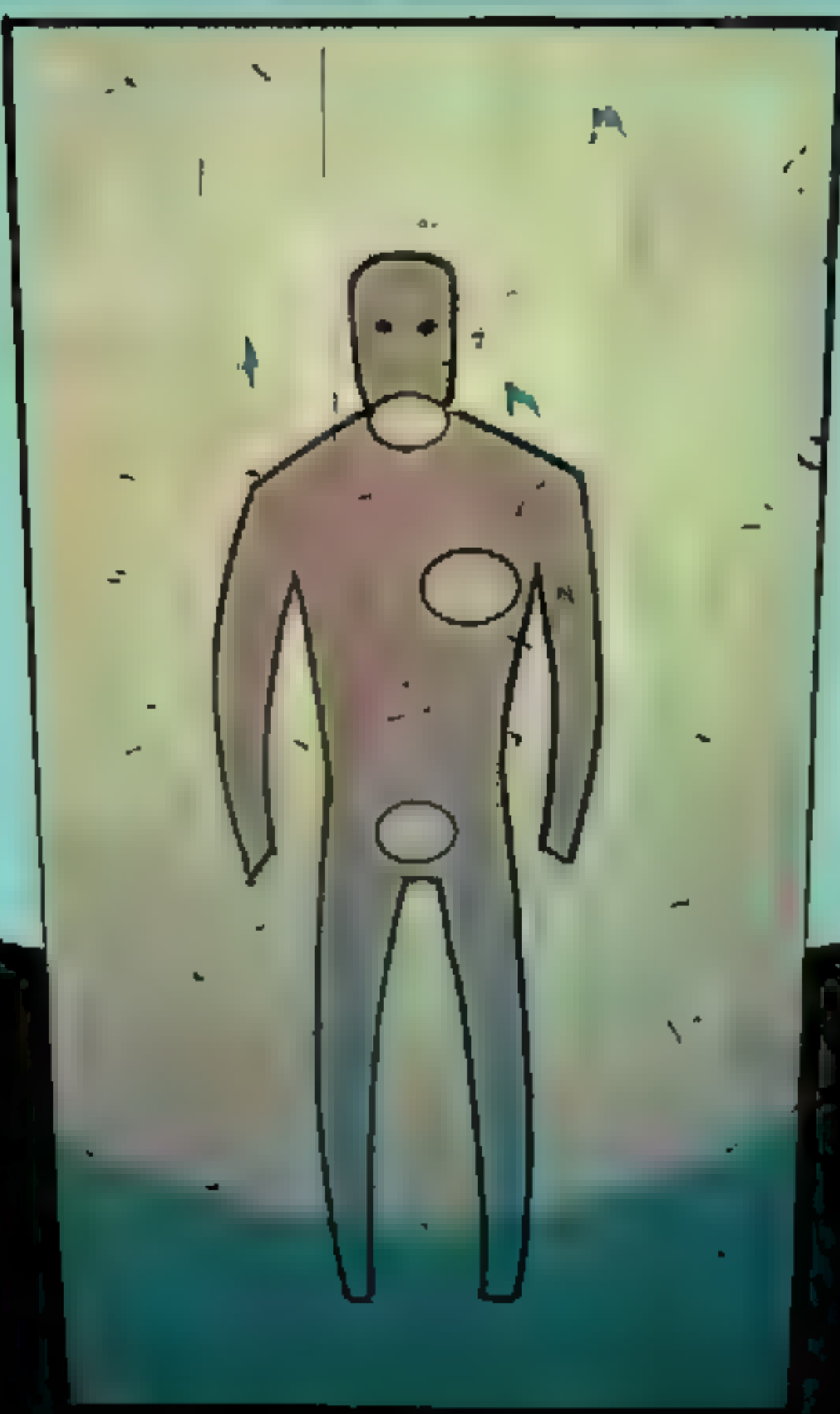
WHAT,
WITH THE
SMOKING?

WELL,
IT'S IN THE
ELBOWS.



DANDY.





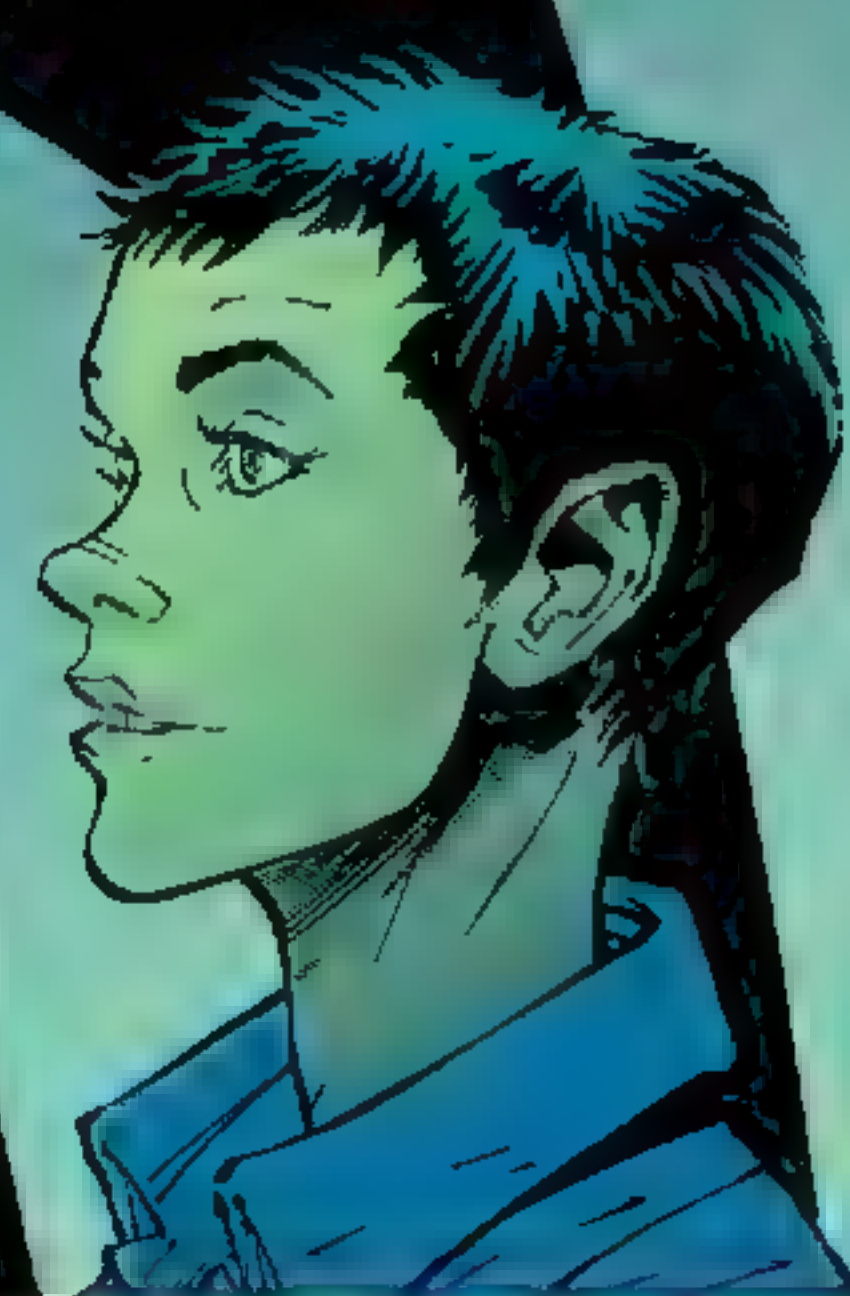
AW. ARE
THOSE LITTLE
HORNS? YOU
ROCKSTAR.

BARBARA
DREW THEM
ON, FOR
INSPIRATION.

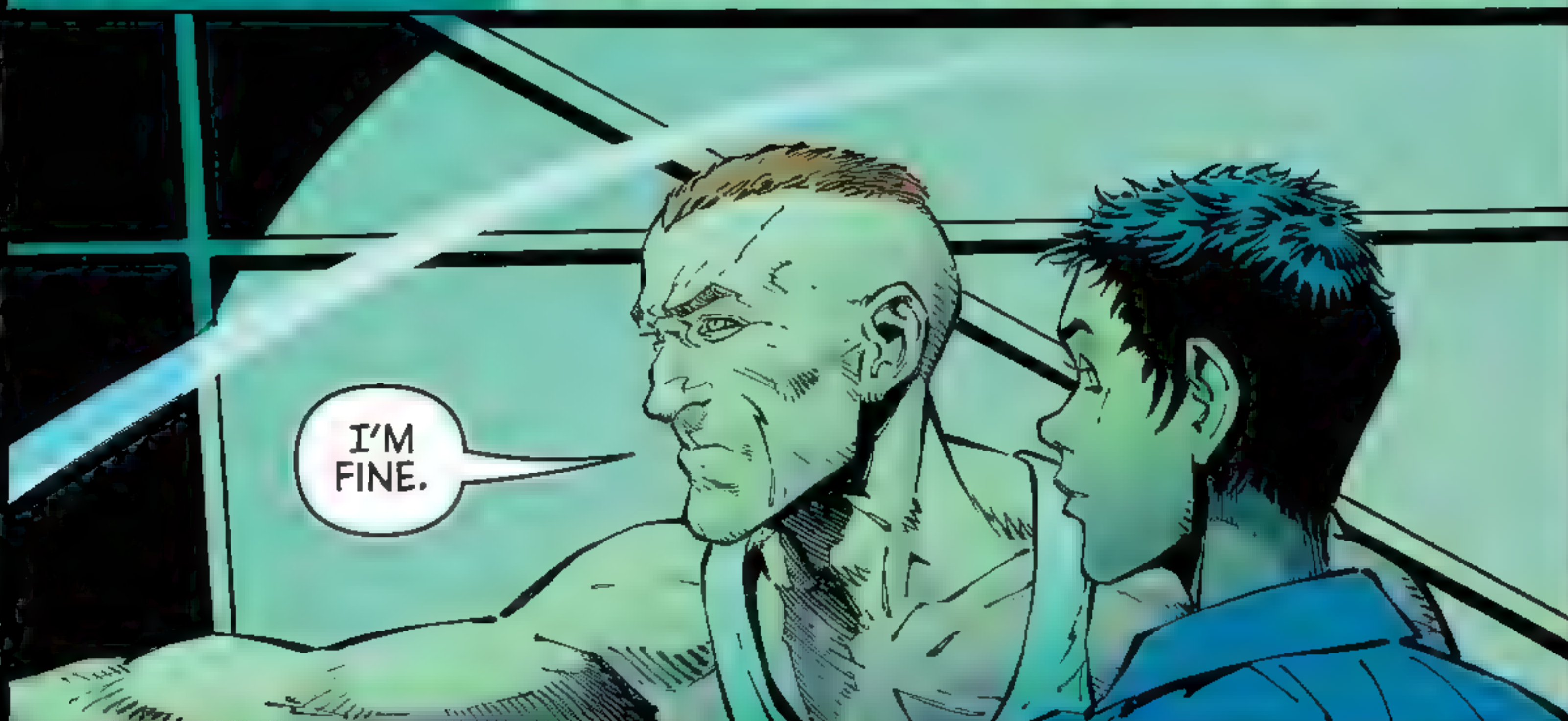


CUTE. BUT I
WASN'T ASKING ABOUT
THE SMOKING. I WAS
ASKING WHETHER YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT WITH WHAT YOU
FOUND OUT. AT THE
MORGUE.

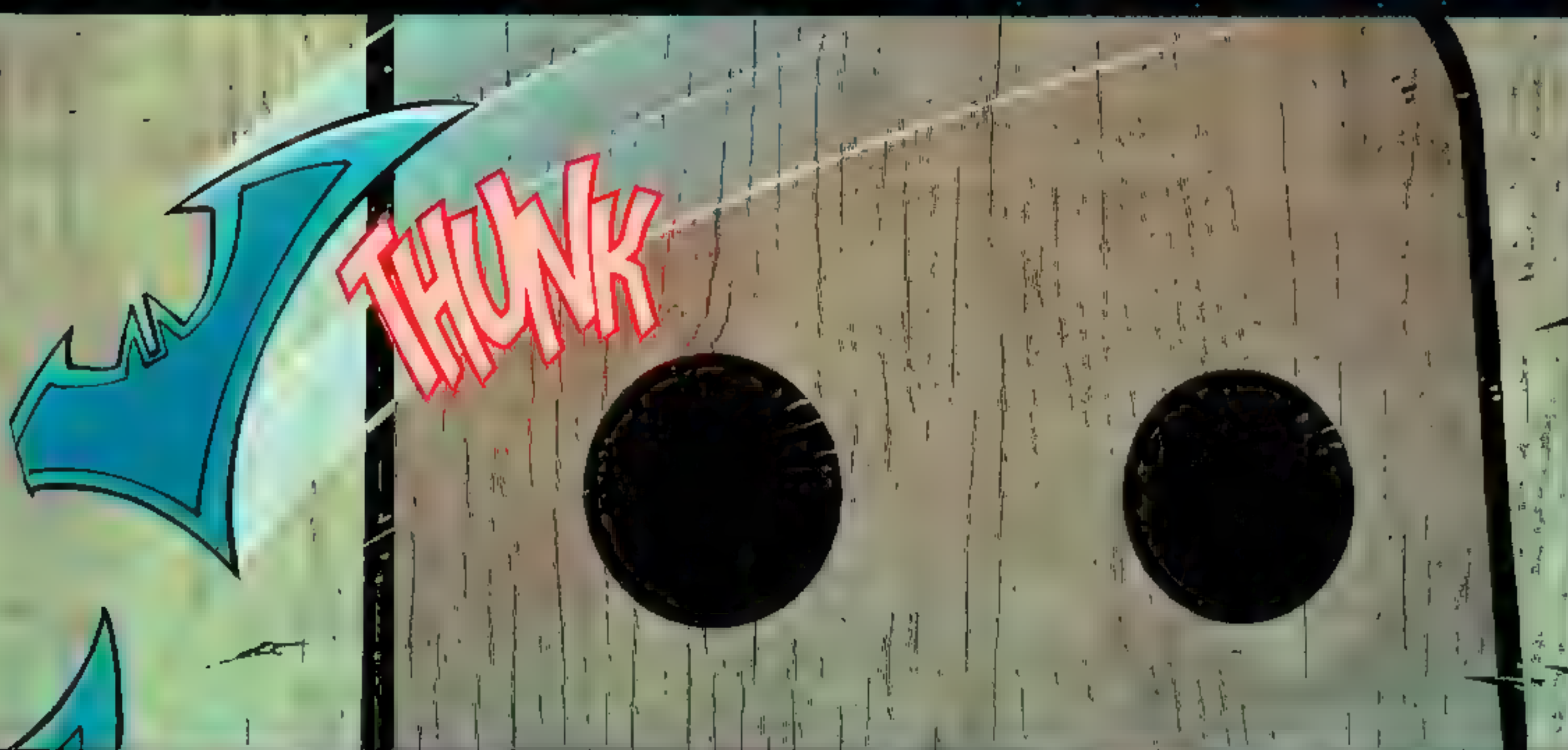
...



I'M
FINE.



THUNK

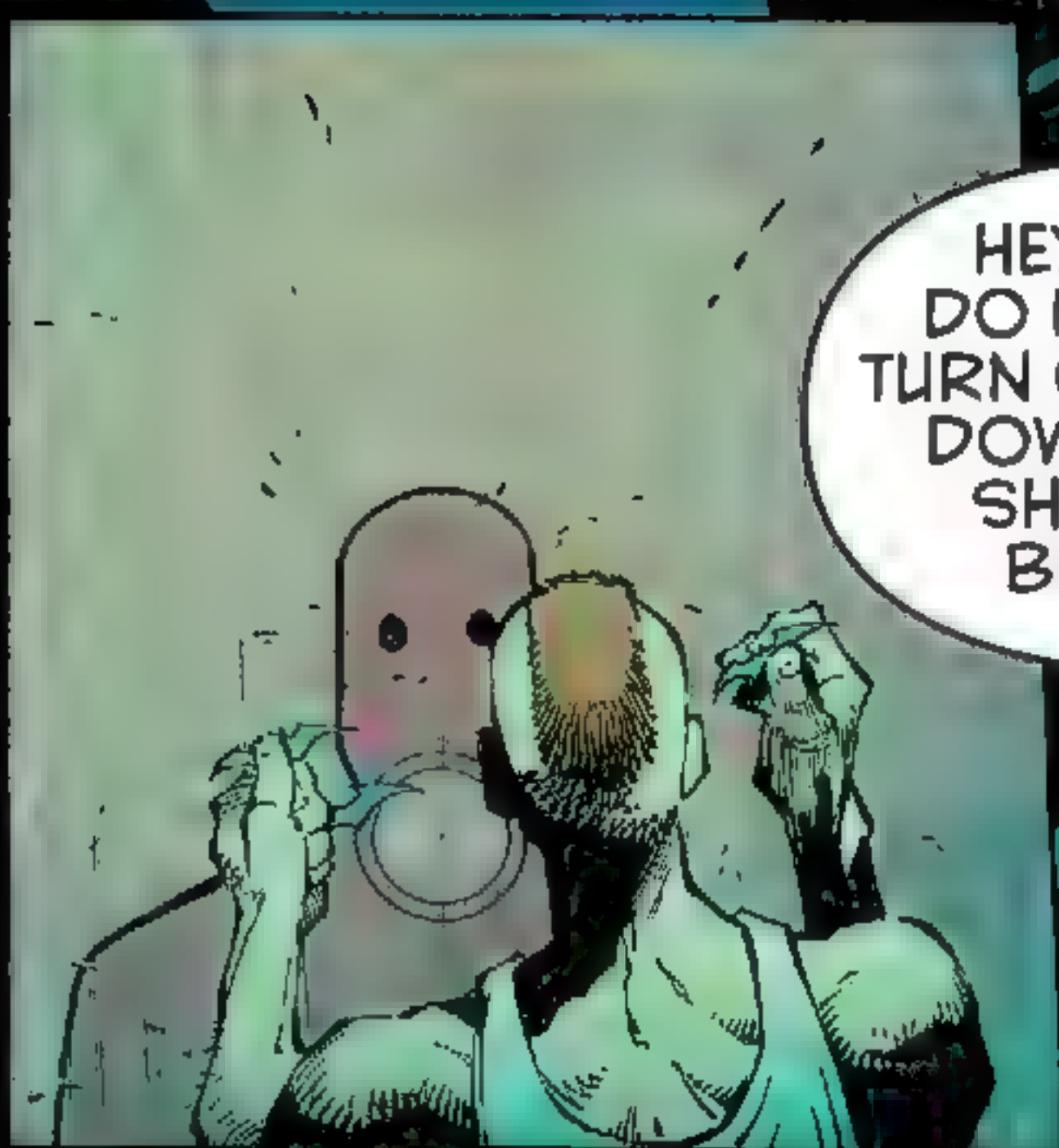


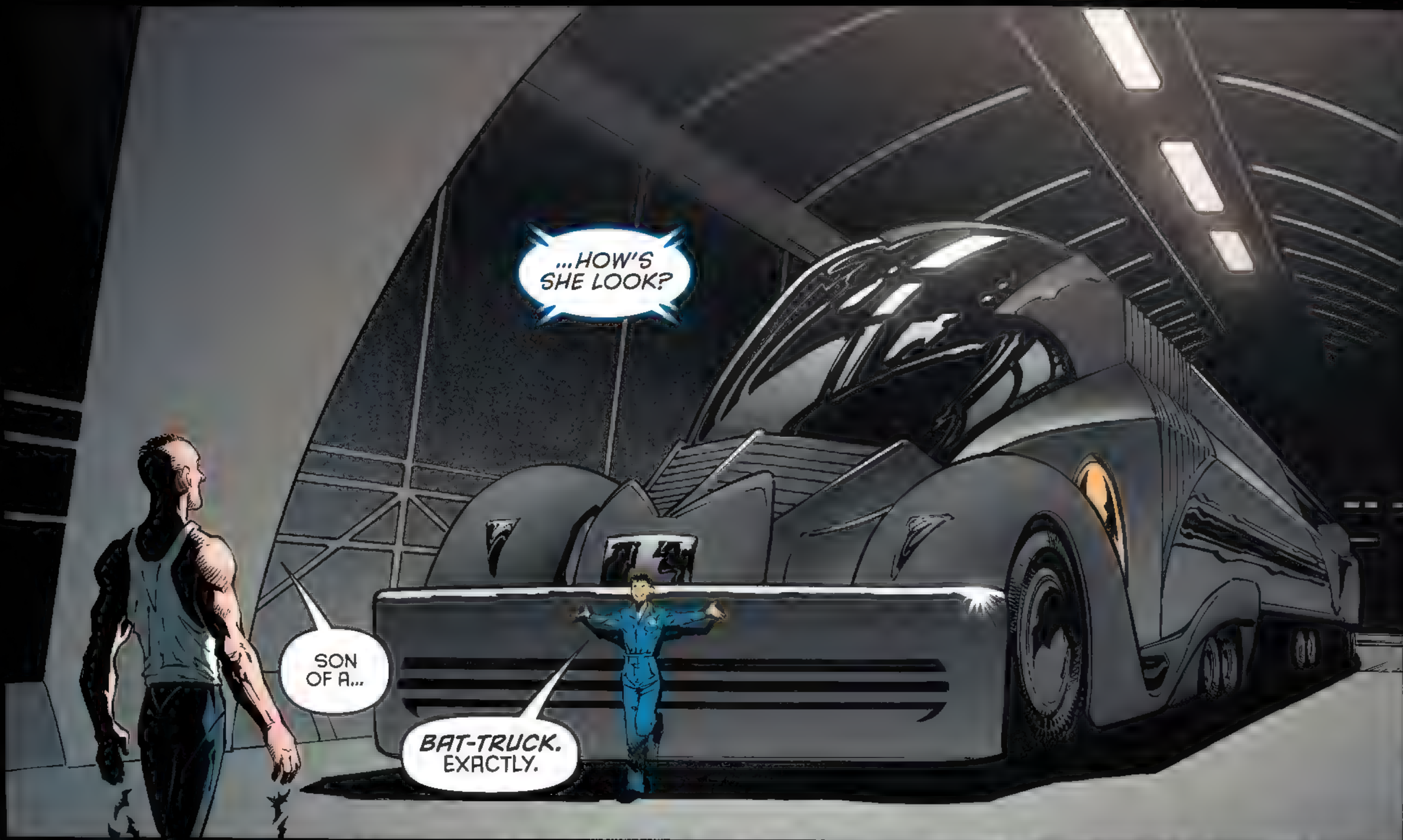
OKAY
THEN.

HEY, *DARYL*?!
DO ME A FAVOR?
TURN ON THE LIGHTS
DOWN HERE AND
SHOW JIM HIS
BATMOBILE.

SURE
THING...

KWK





...HOW'S SHE LOOK?

SON OF A...

BAT-TRUCK. EXACTLY.

YOU CAN CONTROL IT FROM YOUR SUIT, YOU KNOW. DARYL CALLS IT OUR *ROLLING CAVE*. FIFTEEN MILLION PLUS. I THINK IT'S A BIT MUCH, BUT STILL.

NOW. FEELING BETTER?

THAT WAS PARKED HERE THE WHOLE--



HEY, GUYS, I'M GETTING SOMETHING. IT'S LOOKING REAL.

HOW REAL?



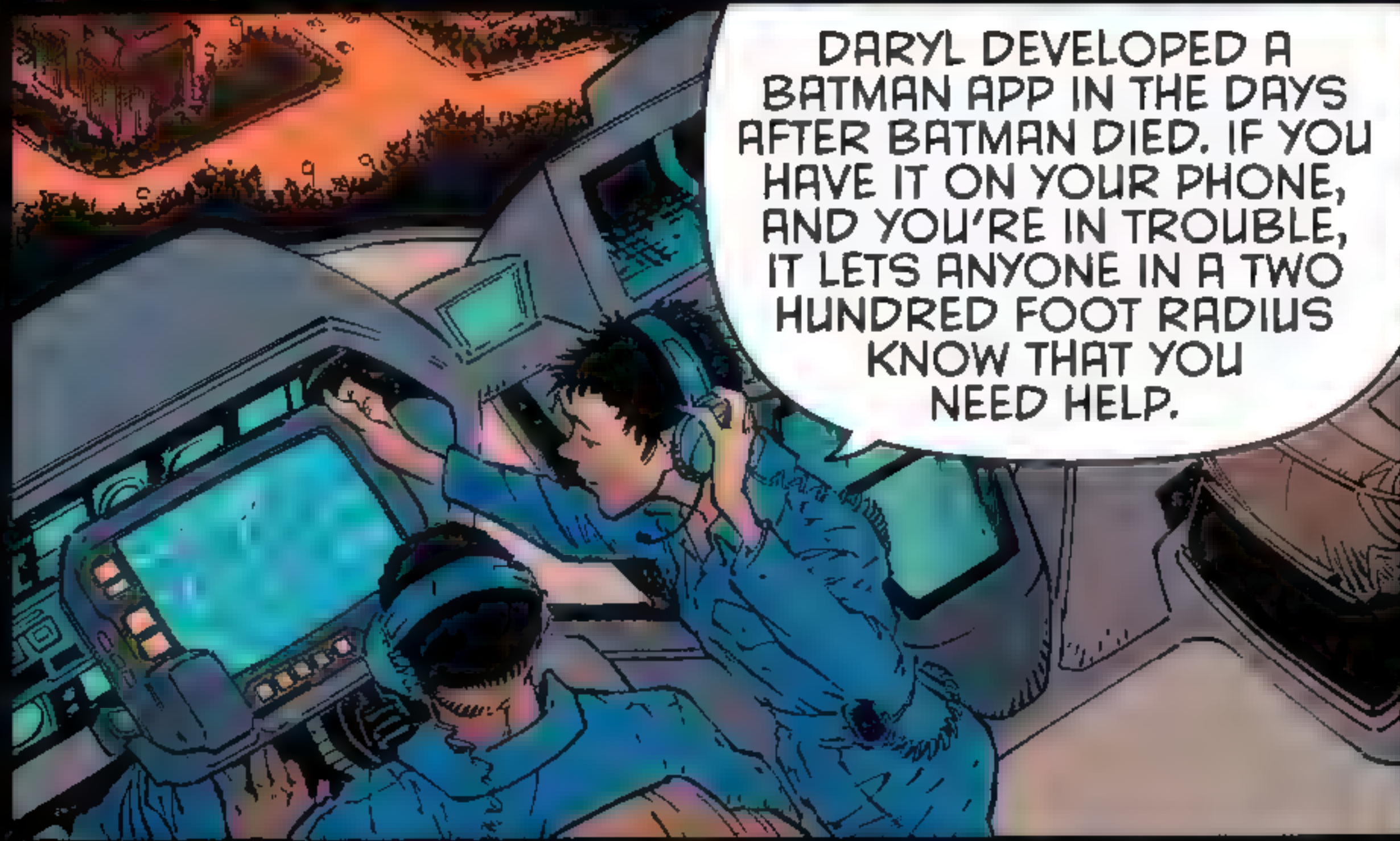
VERY REAL. AND VERY BIG.



I'VE GOTTEN HUNDREDS OF PINGS IN JUST THE LAST MINUTE. THE **BAT-APP** IS GOING CRAZY. IT'S ANOTHER MASSIVE DISTURBANCE IN THE **NARROWS**. CHINATOWN THIS TIME.



"BAT APP." TRANSLATE TO OLD PERSON FOR ME.



DARYL DEVELOPED A BATMAN APP IN THE DAYS AFTER BATMAN DIED. IF YOU HAVE IT ON YOUR PHONE, AND YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, IT LETS ANYONE IN A TWO HUNDRED FOOT RADIUS KNOW THAT YOU NEED HELP.



IT'S SO WE CAN WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER. THAT'S BATMAN.



TO ME AT LEAST.

AND...IT HAS A BARB THAT FUNNELS ALL **ALERTS** TO US, UP HERE. SO WE GET A BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND JUMP ON ANY CRIME. BEFORE THE NINE-ONE-ONE CALLS, EVEN.



HEH. SEE, THAT'S BATMAN. TO ME AT LEAST.

JUMPING?



BAT-STACHE AWAY.

Look at that.

It'll never stop being strange, will it? Seeing the city from above. Seeing the whole.

Before this, every day, every moment, your job was about seeing it from the street.

But now, here you are on the highest gargoyle of all, staring it in the face, and feeling it staring back, challenging you.

And the city is hurting right now. You can see the gashes. Deep ones, left by the Joker.

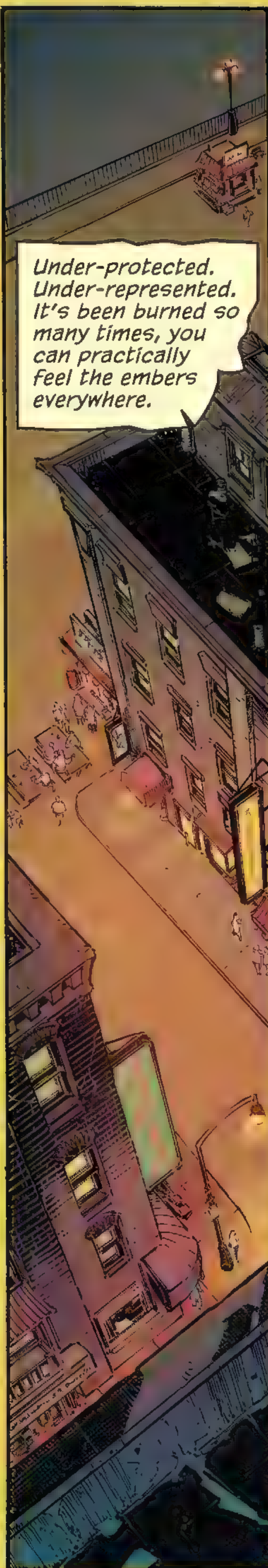
Especially here. In the Narrows.



It's Gotham's poorest neighborhood. Made up of nearly a dozen diverse communities. It's been let down over and over by the mechanisms put in place to protect it.



Under-protected. Under-represented. It's been burned so many times, you can practically feel the embers everywhere.



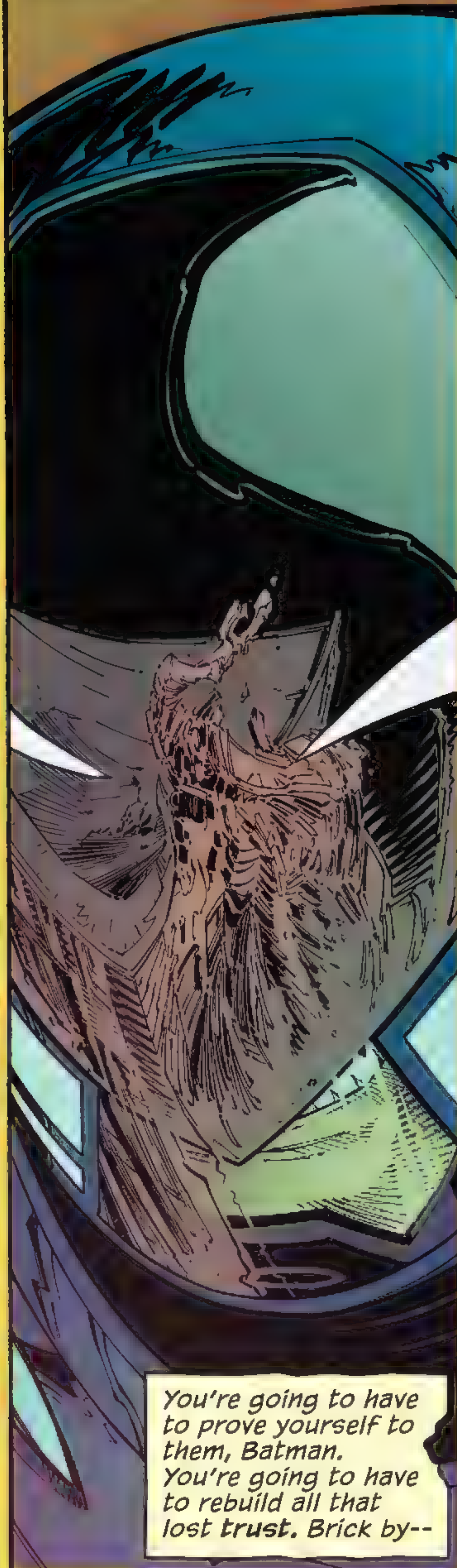
Without help from the city, it establishes its own forms of protection and justice. From community groups to gangs. All independent.

Like the old Batman.

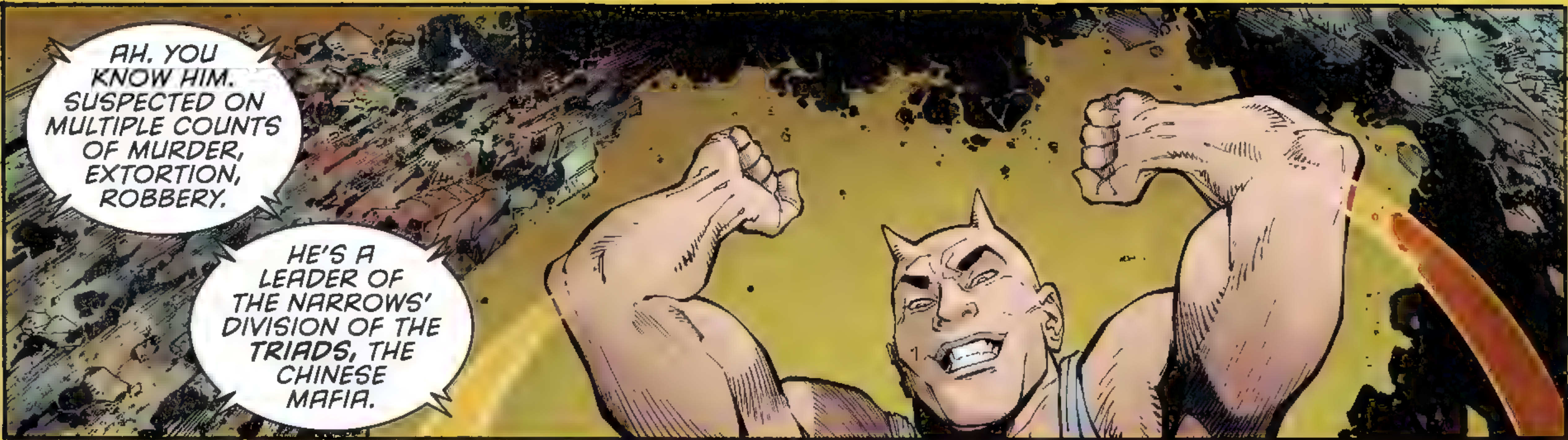


And here you are, an extension of the very system that's failed them so many times, but a system you've believed in and fought for your whole life... here you are, coming along, telling them to believe in you.

You're going to have to prove yourself to them, Batman. You're going to have to rebuild all that lost trust. Brick by--

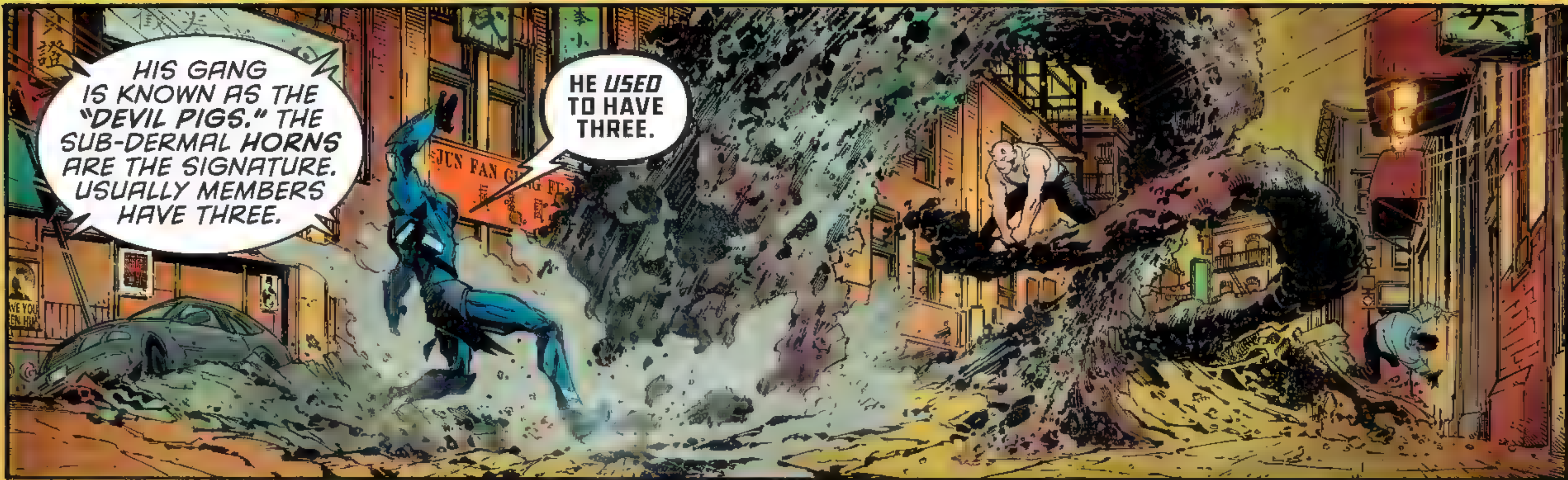






AH. YOU KNOW HIM. SUSPECTED ON MULTIPLE COUNTS OF MURDER, EXTORTION, ROBBERY.

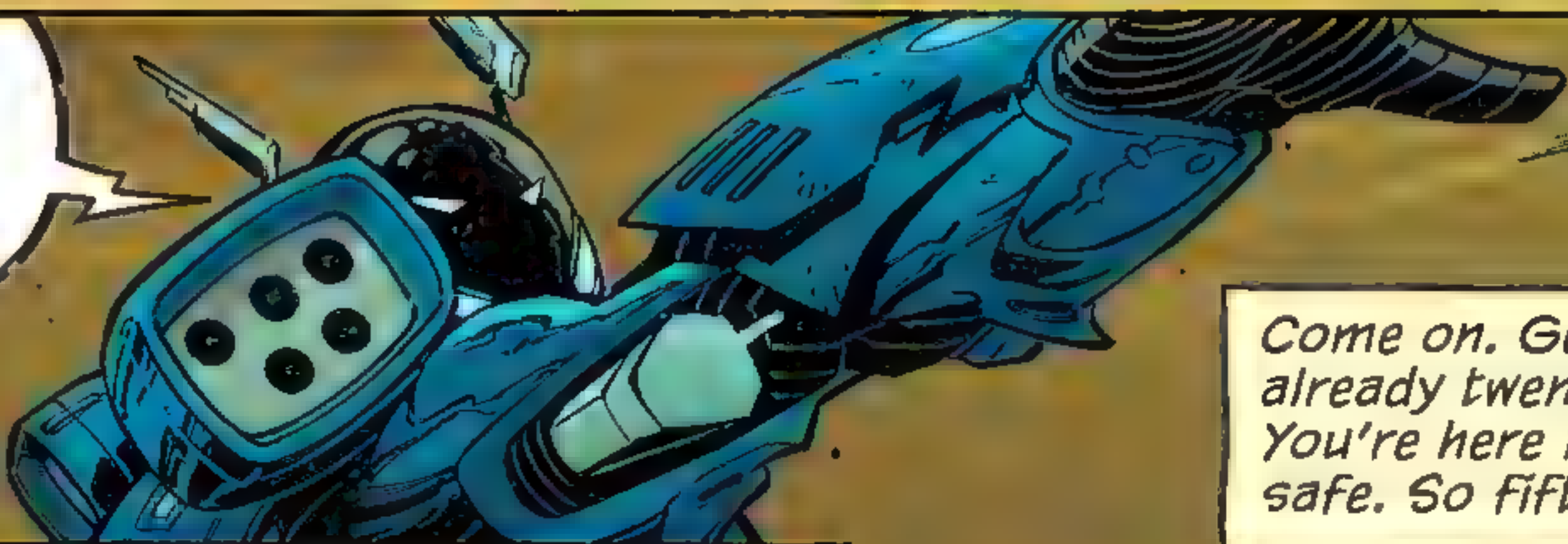
HE'S A LEADER OF THE NARROWS' DIVISION OF THE TRIADS, THE CHINESE MAFIA.



HIS GANG IS KNOWN AS THE "DEVIL PIGS." THE SUB-DERMAL HORNS ARE THE SIGNATURE. USUALLY MEMBERS HAVE THREE.

HE USED TO HAVE THREE.

I REMOVED THE THIRD ONE LAST TIME WE MET.



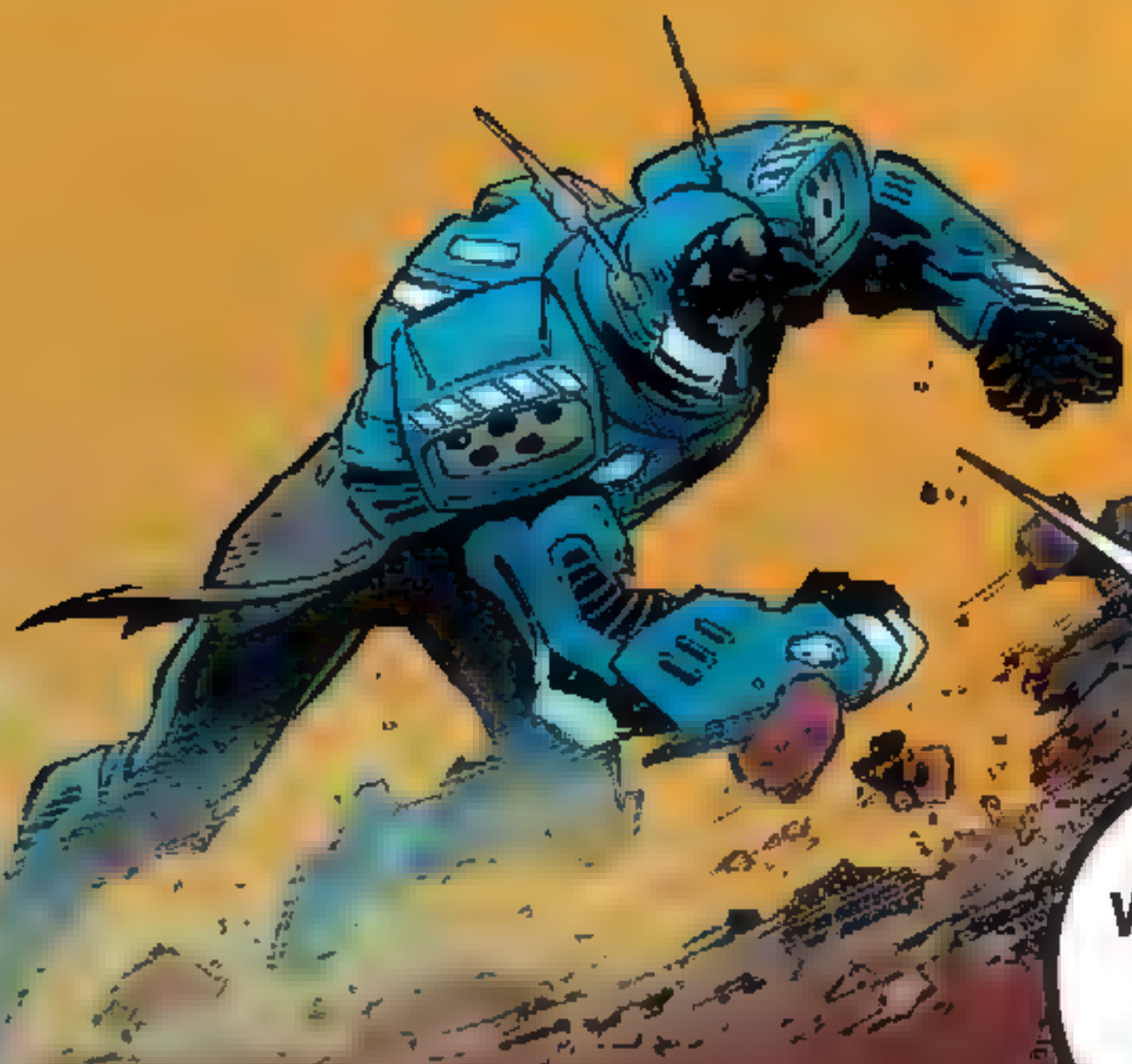
Come on. Get him down fast, Jim. Intel says already twenty likely dead, buried in the rubble. You're here to prove you can keep these people safe. So fifty-five thousand volts should...



ZZZT



...do absolutely nothing.



DARYL? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH OUR FRIEND HERE? HE'S A STREET BOSS. WHY'S HE JUSTICE LEAGUE ALL OF A SUDDEN?



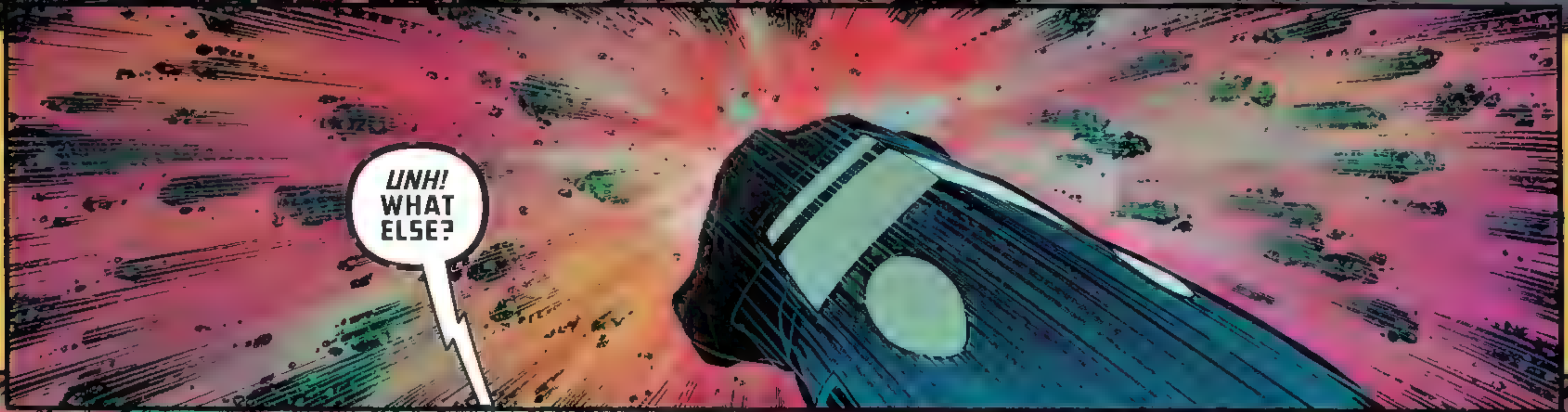
I DON'T KNOW.
IT DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE... HE SEEMS TO
BE ABLE TO TAP INTO
AND MANIPULATE
THE MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE OF
SILICATE.

HE'S USING
SOMETHING TO
CONVERT HIS
BODY'S POWER
INTO A KIND OF
MAGNETISM
FOR IT.

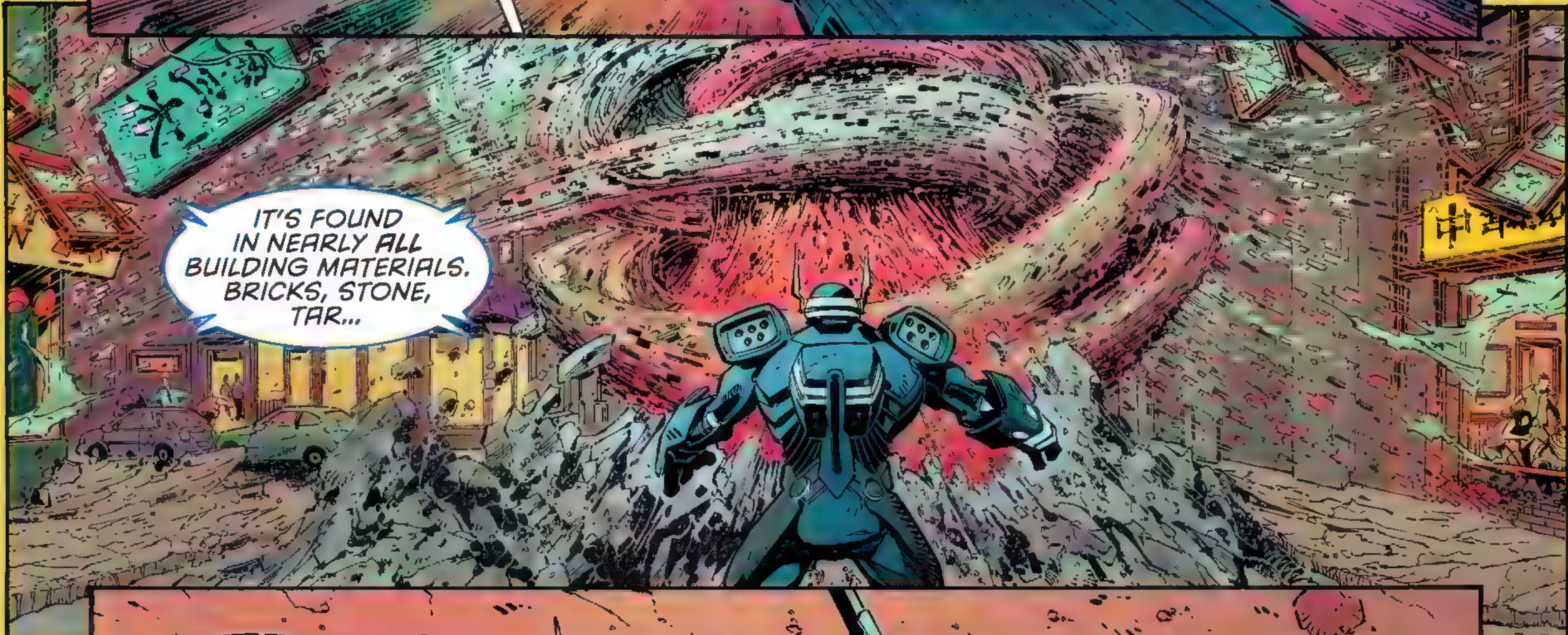
SILICATE.
LIKE IN
BRICK.



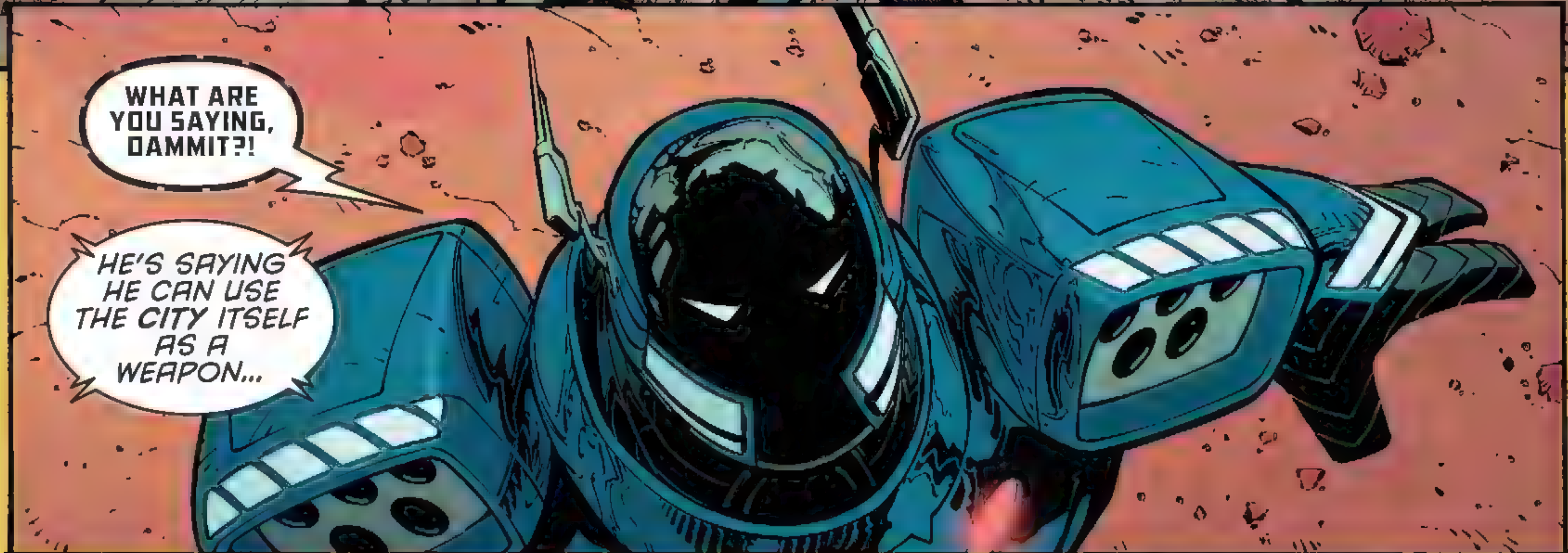
YES,
BUT NOT
JUST BRICK,
BATMAN.



UNH!
WHAT
ELSE?



IT'S FOUND
IN NEARLY ALL
BUILDING MATERIALS.
BRICKS, STONE,
TAR...



WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING,
DAMMIT?!

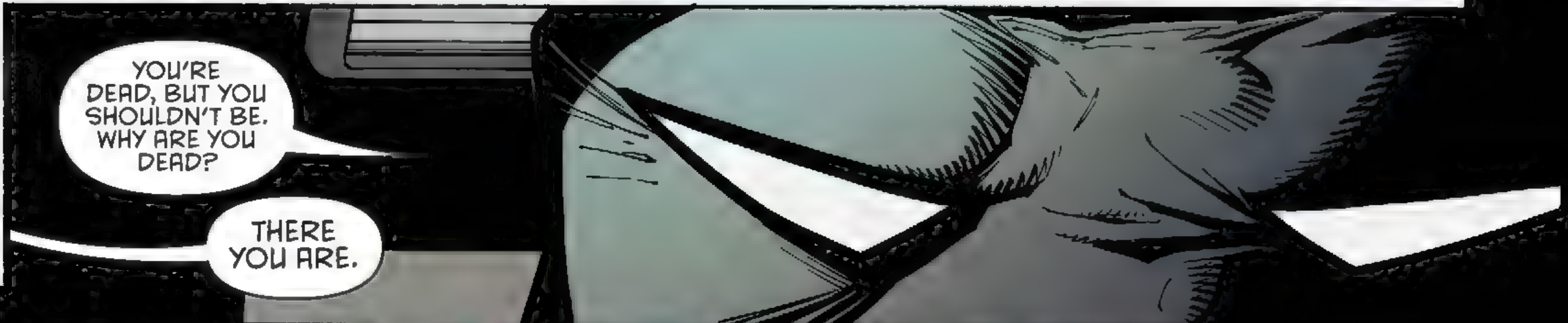
HE'S SAYING
HE CAN USE
THE CITY ITSELF
AS A
WEAPON...



...TO MAKE
ANYTHING HE
WANTS TO KILL
YOU.



"YOU'RE DEAD."



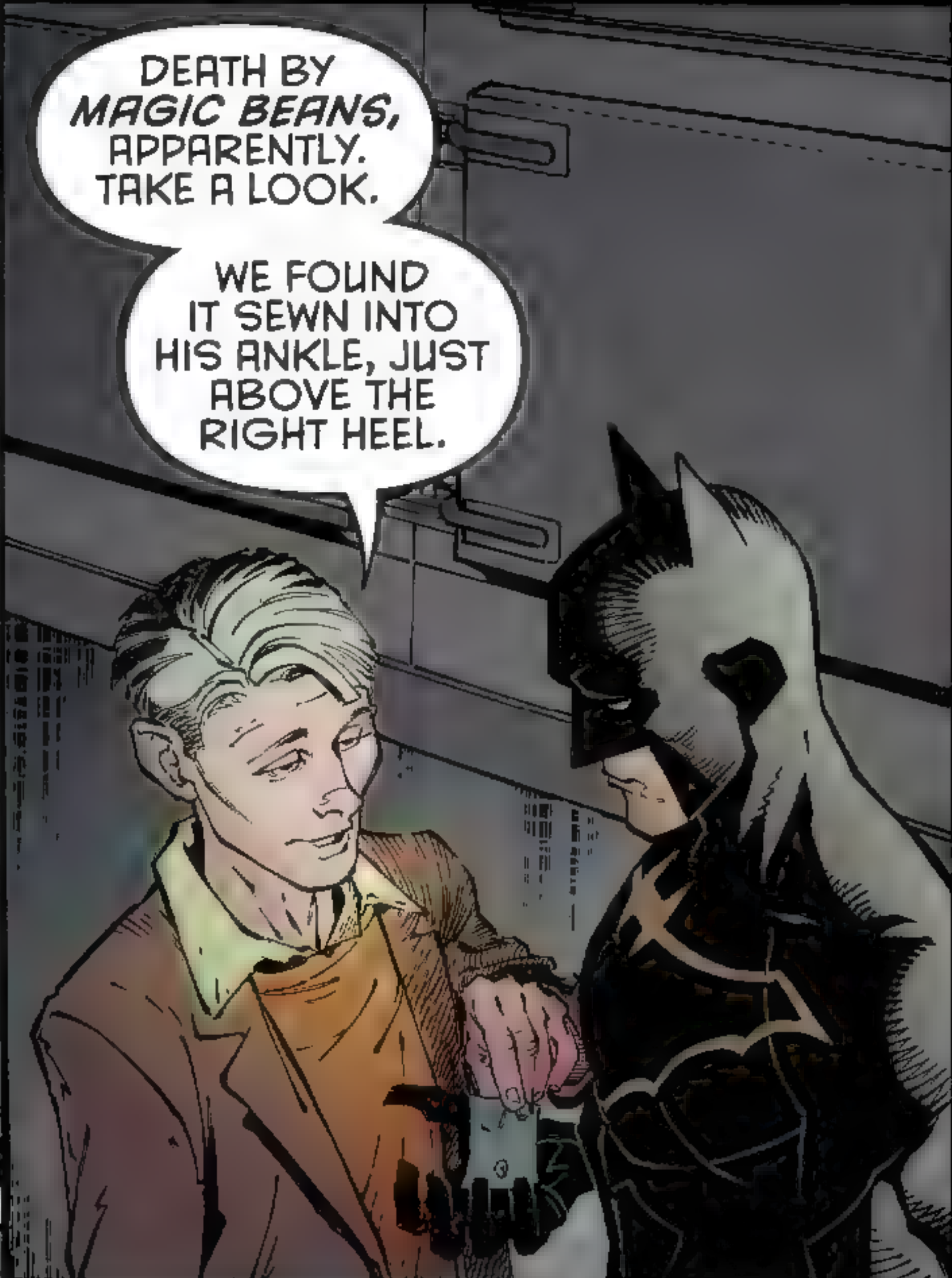
YOU'RE DEAD, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE. WHY ARE YOU DEAD?

THERE YOU ARE.



I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU WITHOUT A TEN-FOOT ROBOT GROWING OUT OF YOUR ASS. I ASSUME IT'S CHARGING?

MORE LIKE IN AIRPLANE MODE, COMMISSIONER SAWYER. BUT *PRECIOUS PRECIOUS*. I BROUGHT HIM IN *ALIVE*. WHAT DID HIM IN?



DEATH BY *MAGIC BEANS*, APPARENTLY. TAKE A LOOK.

WE FOUND IT SEWN INTO HIS ANKLE, JUST ABOVE THE RIGHT HEEL.



IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF... *SEED*.

THE "*SEED*" LOOKS *ORGANIC*, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY VERY HIGH-TECH. A SUPER-LEAD SHELL AROUND A TINY RADIOACTIVE REACTOR.

AND IT KILLED HIM HOW?



HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO BOOKING AND THE THING'S SHELL *DISSOLVED*. IT STARTED GIVING OFF MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF *RADIATION*.



SO YOU'RE SAYING WHOEVER GAVE IT TO HIM TURNED IT ON HIGH AND *COOKED* HIM BEFORE HE COULD TALK?

HE DIED IN SECONDS...



...JUST
LIKE THE
OTHERS.

ALL FOUND
DEAD OF RADIATION
POISONING IN THE LAST FEW
WEEKS. CORONER DISCOVERED
ONE OF THESE "SEEDS"
IN EACH OF THEM.

THING IS,
EACH SEED GAVE ITS
HOST A *UNIQUE* WAY
OF ENHANCING AND
CHANNELING HIS OR HER
BODY'S OWN ENERGY.
ELECTRICAL. THERMAL.
PHYSICAL. EACH PERSON
GOT HIS OR HER
OWN SPECIAL
ABILITIES.

AN ARMS
DEALER WHO
SELLS
POWERS?

THESE TWO, THE
SEEDS FOUND IN THEM
WEREN'T FUNCTIONAL.
THEY KILLED THEM
PRETTY MUCH RIGHT
AWAY.

THE SEEDS IN *THESE* TWO
GENTLEMEN, HOWEVER, HAD
UTILITY. MEANING...WHOEVER
MAKES THESE THINGS, THE
FIRST COUPLE WERE LIKELY
JUST *EXPERIMENTS*.

SO HE'S
PERFECTING
HIS CRAFT.

AND HE'S GIVING
THESE THINGS TO SOME
VERY BAD PEOPLE. EACH OF
HIS CLIENTS WAS A HIGH-LEVEL
CRIME BOSS IN THE NARROWS.
DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES.
DIFFERENT GANGS. ALL
GOING TO HIM.

YOU HAVE
TAM CANACOO
OF THE GREEN LINE
FOURS. FATEFUL
EDIE FATIANO
FROM--

I KNOW
HER. I KNOW
ALL OF
THEM.

I WAS
THE ONE WHO
TOOK EACH OF
THEM DOWN.
THEY WERE *MY*
COLLARS.

THIS LAST
YEAR'S BEEN SO
CRAZY, I DIDN'T
EVEN REALIZE MOST
OF THEM WERE
BACK ON THE
STREETS.

SO IT'S
PERSONAL.

WELL, I
SUPPOSE
YOU HAVE YOUR
VERY FIRST
SUPER-VILLAIN,
JIM.



THANKS FOR THE HELP, COMMISSIONER. KEEP ME POSTED IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES UP.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.

WHAT?

LOOK, I KNOW IN GOTHAM THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BATMAN STANDING WITH A COMMISSIONER ON A ROOFTOP SOMEWHERE, TALKING IN SECRET, BUT NOT AFTER TODAY.

POWERS CORP AND THE CITY WANT GCPD TAKING LEAD ON THIS, JIM. WHEN WE'RE READY TO MOVE IN ON HIM, WE'LL CALL YOU. YOU CAN COLLAR HIM AND TAKE A BOW.

BUT, MAGGIE...

LISTEN TO ME. YOU'RE BATMAN. BUT A *DEPUTIZED* BATMAN. STATE MONEY. STATE BOSSES. YOU'RE OFFICIAL. AND "OFFICIAL" MEANS RULES. YOU DON'T FOLLOW THOSE RULES, THEY'LL SHUT YOU DOWN HARD. THAT I KNOW.



AND IF I DO?

>Sigh< I DON'T KNOW, JIM. BATMAN'S ALWAYS BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE FOR ME. AND HERE YOU ARE...IF YOU'RE ASKING ME IF I THINK IT COULD WORK? HONESTLY, I'D SAY GET OUT NOW.

THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO TELL ME, ISN'T IT?

NO ONE WOULD THINK LESS OF YOU.



I HAVE TO GO.

ALL RIGHT. WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR ON ME, RIGHT?



...



DIGITAL CAMOUFLAGE.

TOUCHE. WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

"...WATCH YOUR
BACK OUT THERE."

Think, dammit!
Think. Find his
weakness.

He's a devil pig in a
house of brick. Not
hay. Not sticks. You
can't blow it down.

But wait...Doesn't somebody
get cooked at the end of
that story...?

DARYL!
THERMAL!
NOW!

Well, well. Look at
this. Locked in your
own house...

GEE GEE
HEUNG...

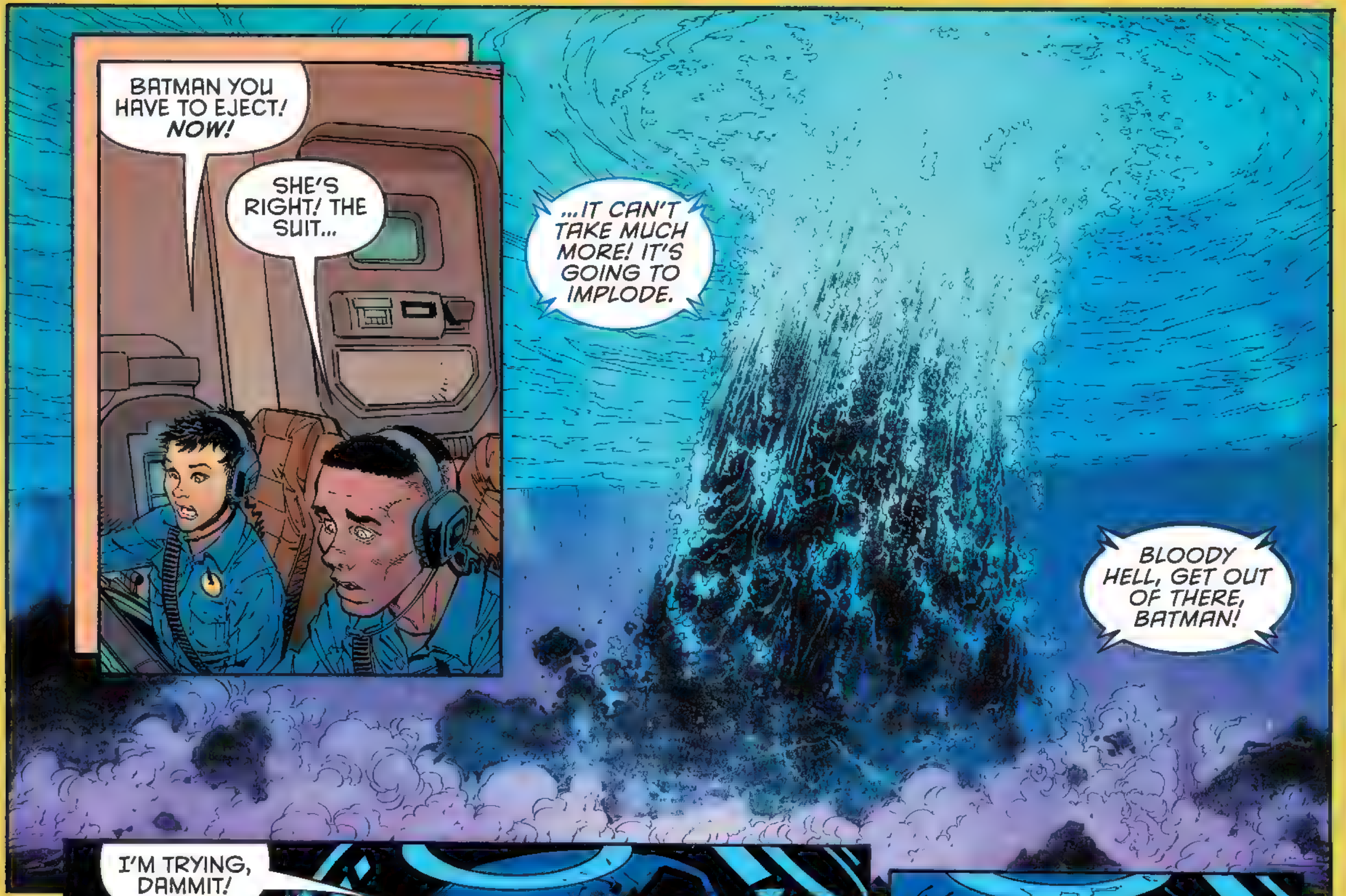
...GET
READY TO
HAVE ONE LESS
HORN.

IMPACT
NEEDED TO
SHATTER THIS
THING?

TWELVE
THOUSAND
POUNDS. BUT
BATMAN, HURRY,
HE'S PULLING FROM
THE STREET! THE
MICA IS--



UNH!



BATMAN YOU
HAVE TO EJECT!
NOW!

SHE'S
RIGHT! THE
SUIT...

...IT CAN'T
TAKE MUCH
MORE! IT'S
GOING TO
IMplode.

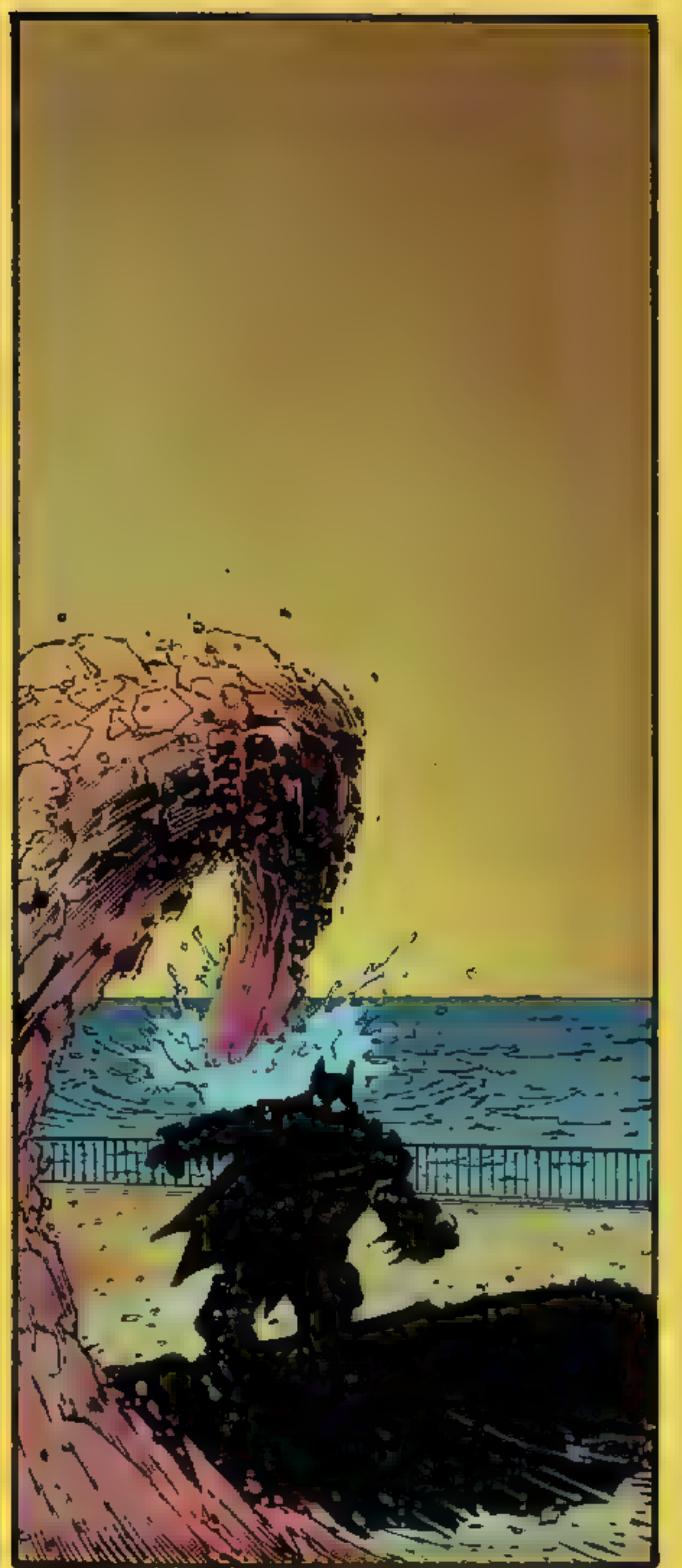
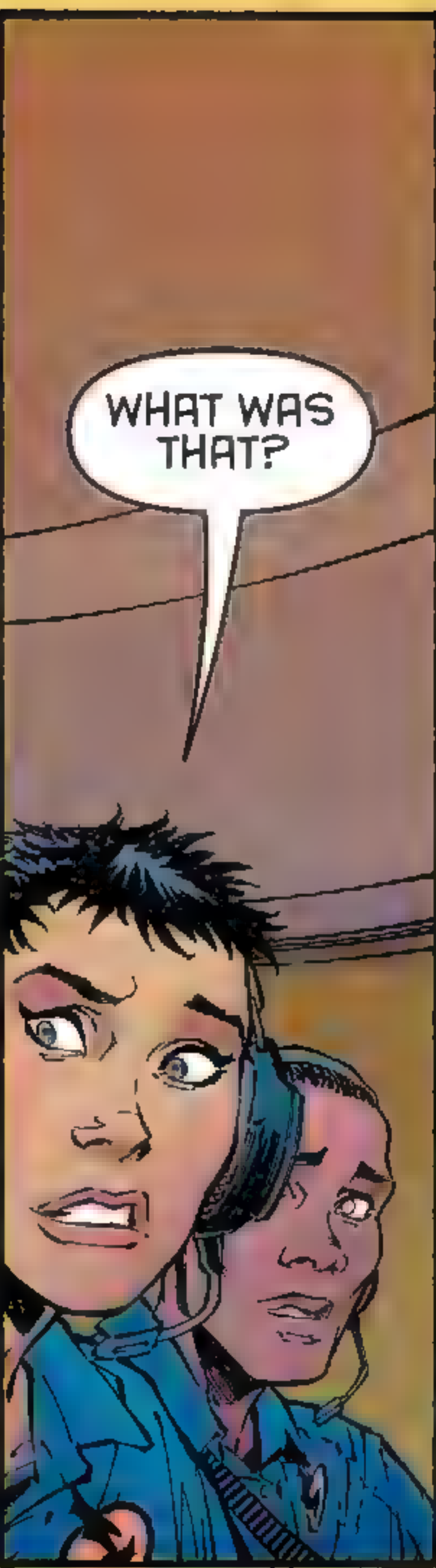
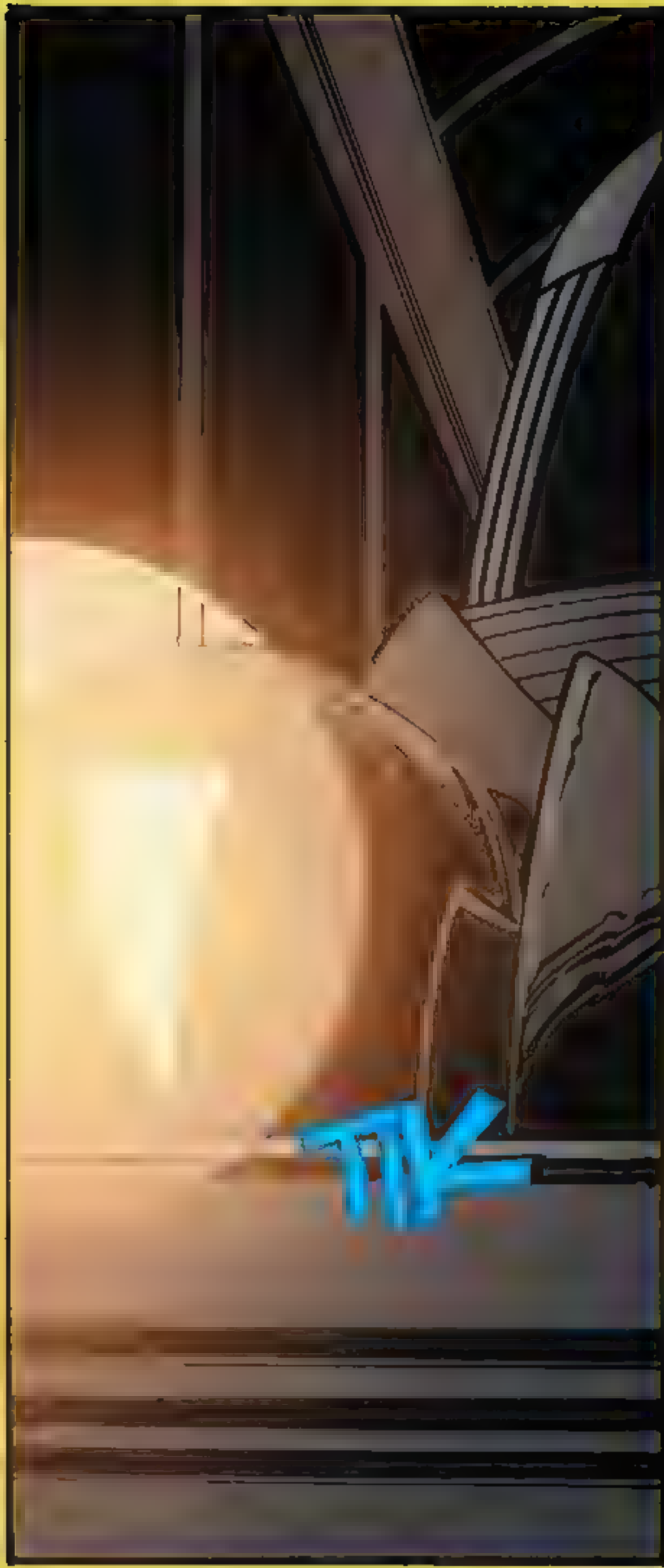
BLOODY
HELL, GET OUT
OF THERE,
BATMAN!

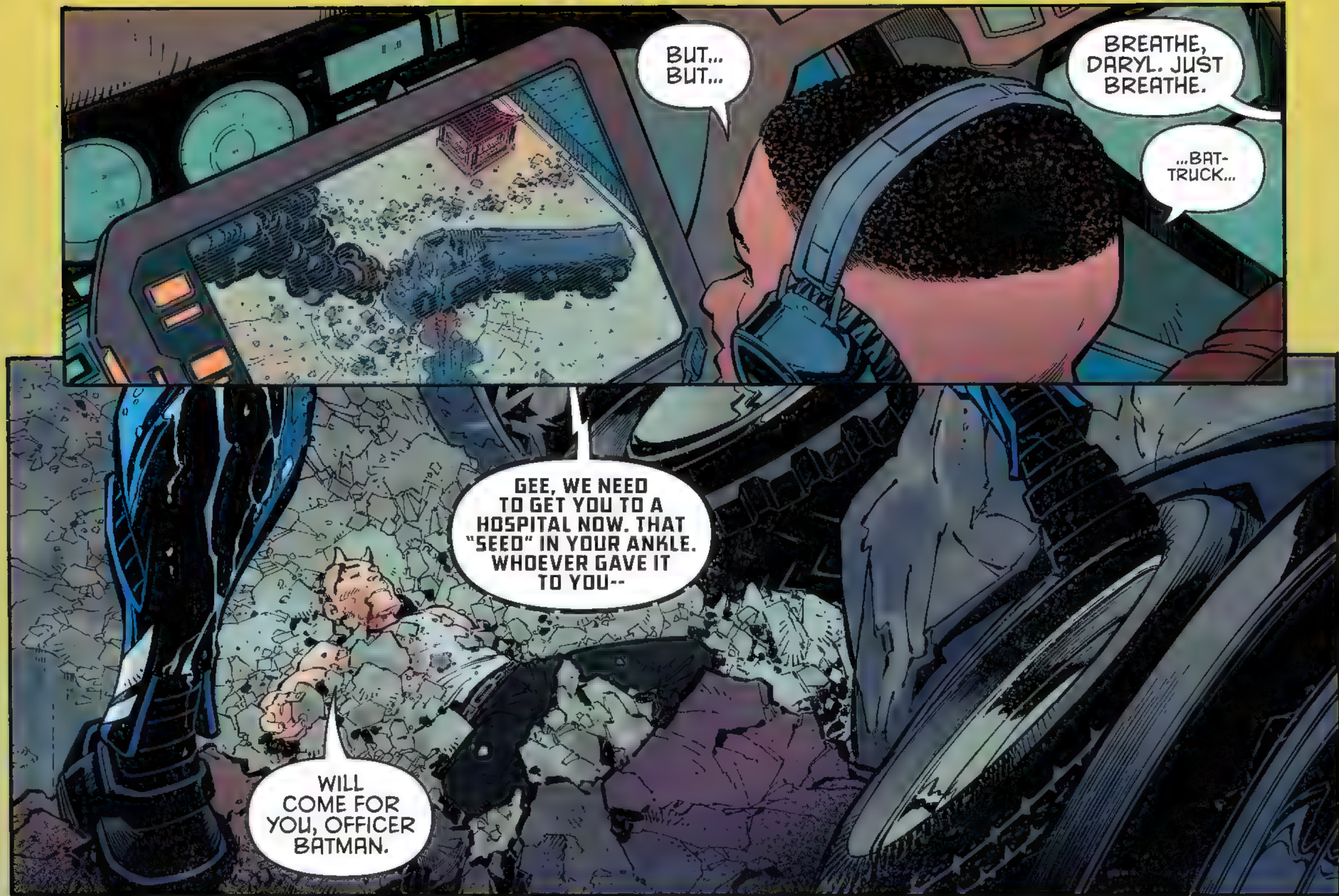
I'M TRYING,
DAMMIT!

Try all you want,
idiot. But this is
where the road
takes you,
literally.

Sawyer was right. They were
all right. You were a damn
fool. Over before you started.
You're not Batman. You
don't even have a--

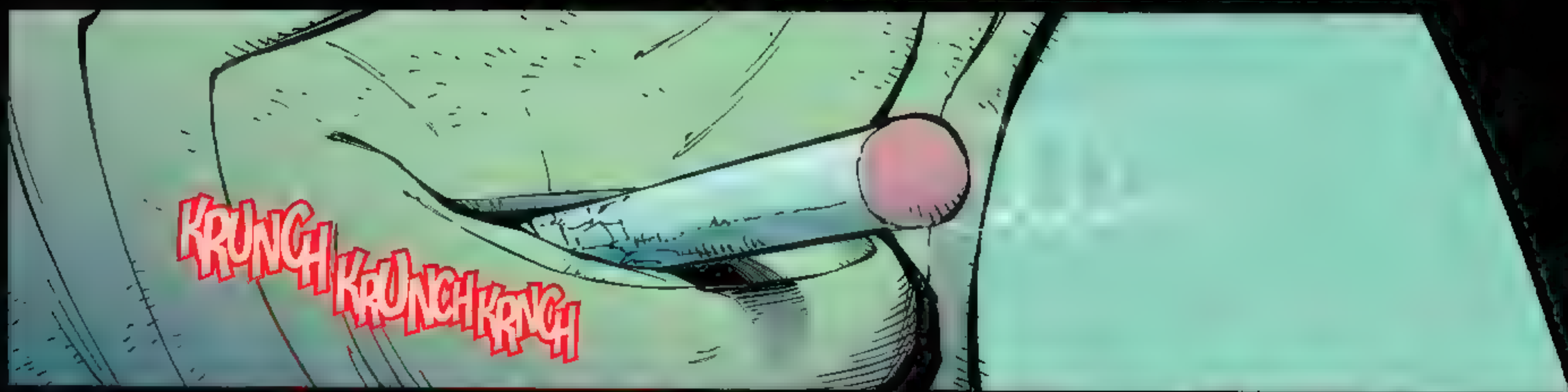
OH.
WAIT...







AND...TELL
ME THAT'S
NOT WHAT IT
LOOKS
LIKE.



CANDY.

BUT I WAS
TEMPTED. I BOUGHT
A PACK AND TOSSED
IT BEFORE GETTING
THESE AT THE BODEGA
ON FIFTH.



I JUST CAME
BY TO TELL YOU
THAT IT'S OFFICIAL:
NOW YOU HAVE NO
BATMOBILE.

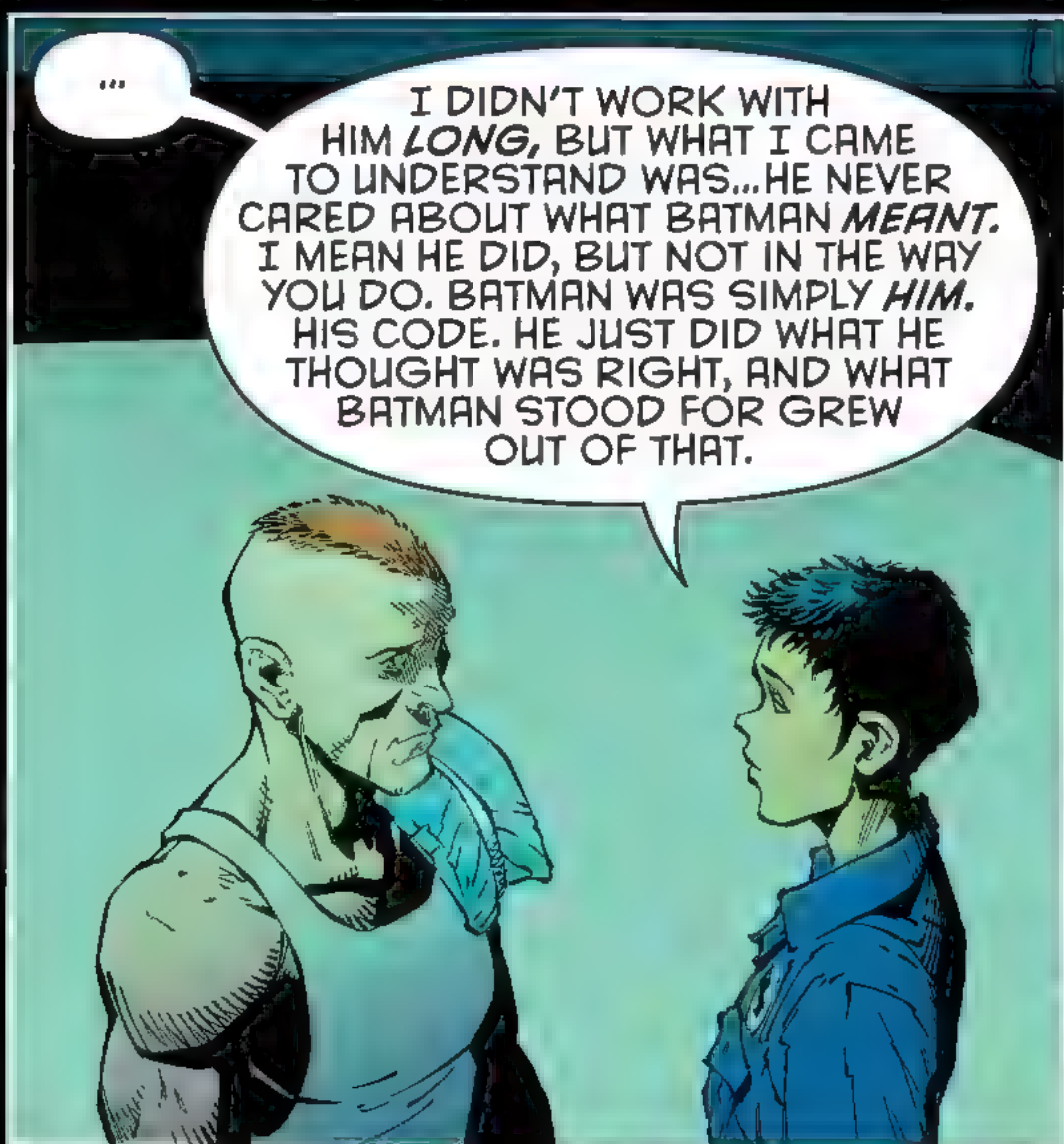
YOU WILL
SOON. THERE
WERE OTHER
MODELS. SO,
FEAR NOT.

NOTED,
THANKS.

ALL RIGHT,
THEN. WE'LL BE
MOORED TO THE
ROOF IN LESS
THAN FIVE.



YOU
WORKED
WITH HIM,
DIDN'T
YOU?





STOP TRYING TO WIN ME OVER, KID. I DON'T CARE *WHO* HE TOOK DOWN, HOW HE TOOK THEM DOWN, WHAT CANCER HE CURED, THAT'S *NOT* BATMAN. I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE OLD ONE TO COME BACK.

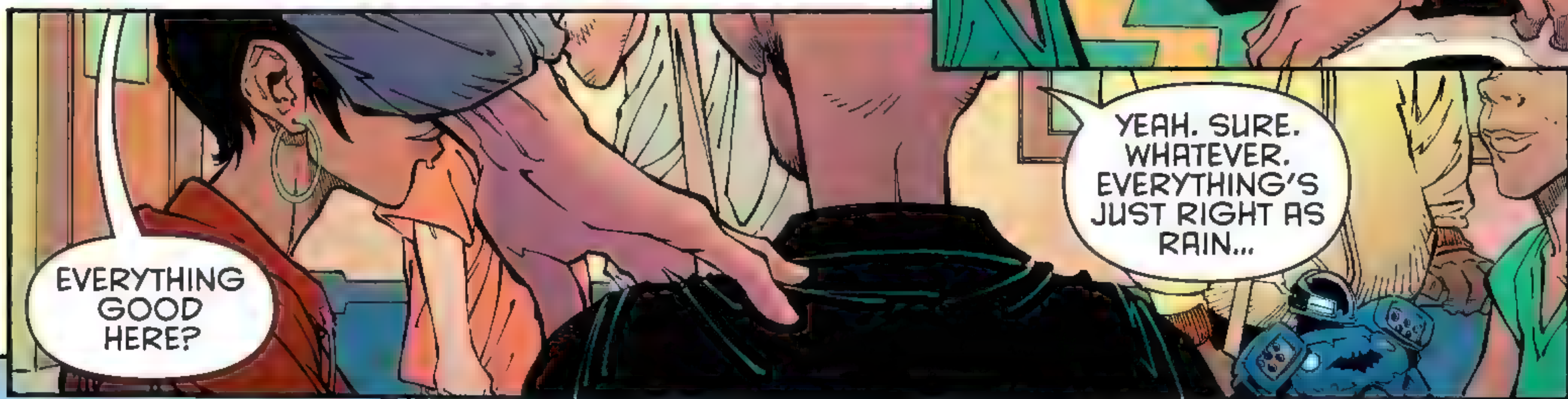
HE'S NOT COMING BACK. HE'S A DECOMPOSING CORPSE SOMEWHERE. JUST ASK THE *ONE* PERSON HERE WHO REALLY KNEW HIM...



ASK DUKE.

MISTER *DUKE* THOMAS. YOU KNOW THE OLD BATMAN. HE'S GONE FOR GOOD, RIGHT?

...



EVERYTHING GOOD HERE?

YEAH. SURE. WHATEVER. EVERYTHING'S JUST RIGHT AS RAIN...

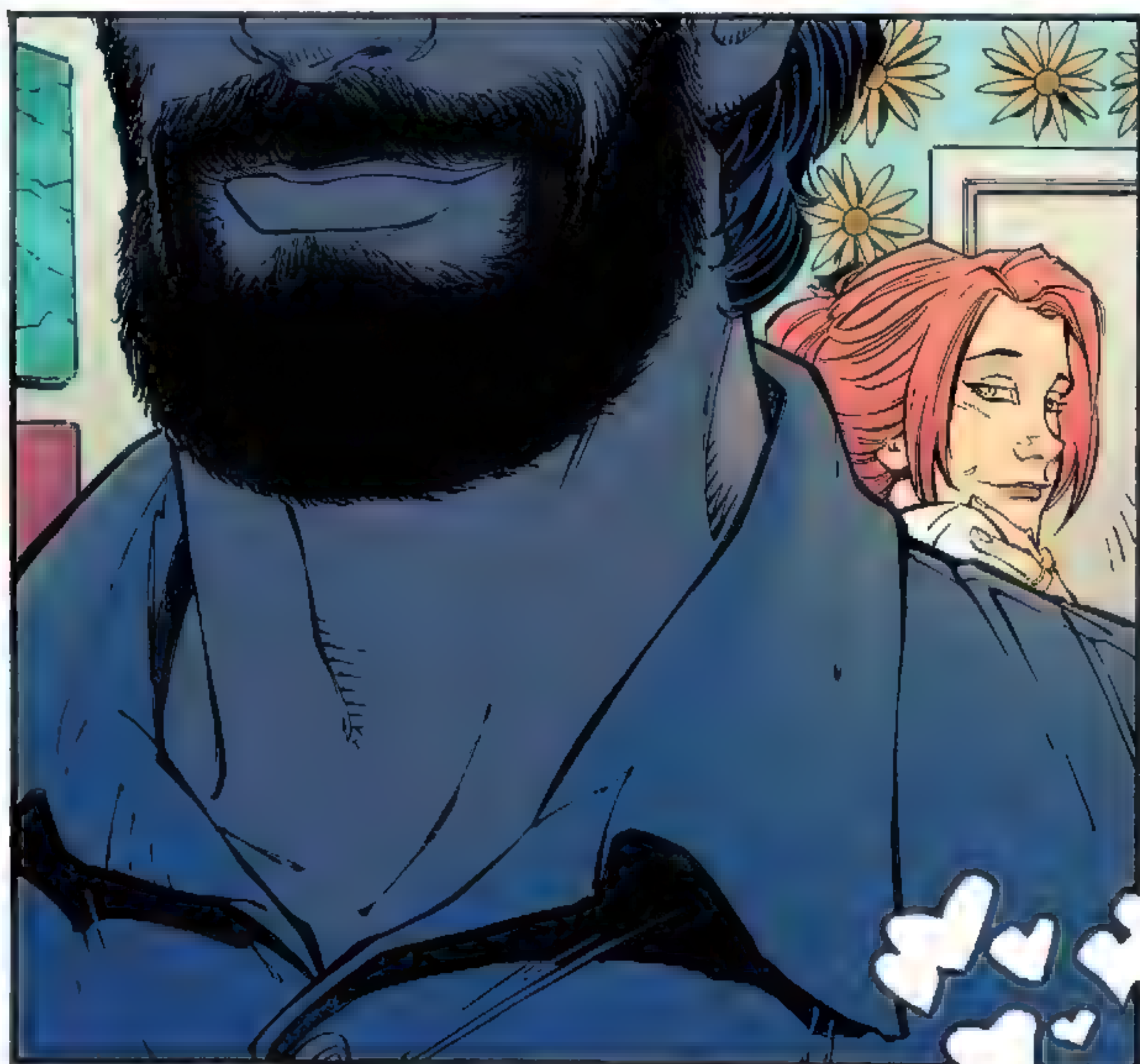
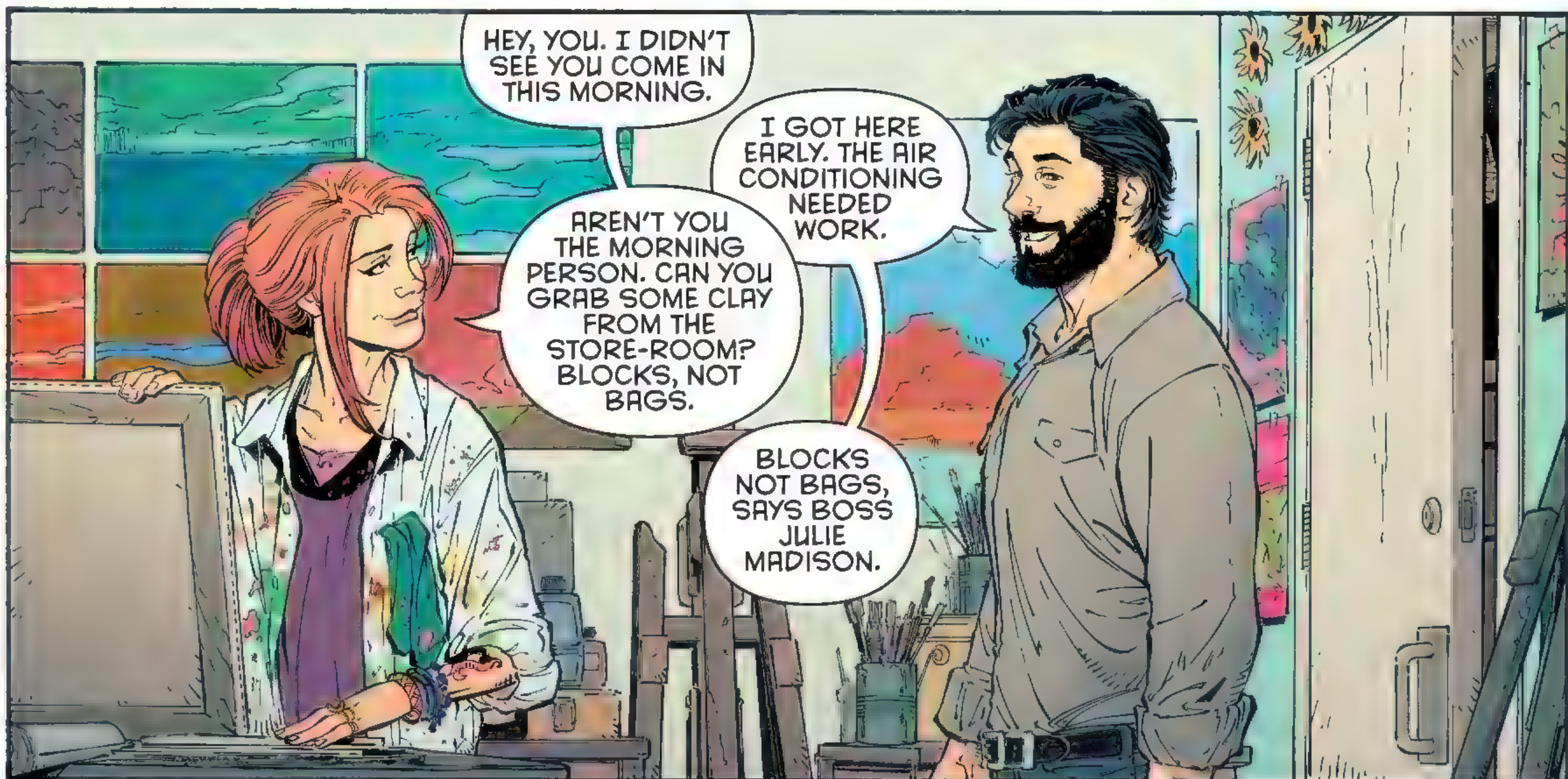


...MR. WAYNE.



CALL ME BRUCE, DUKE. I KEEP ASKING.

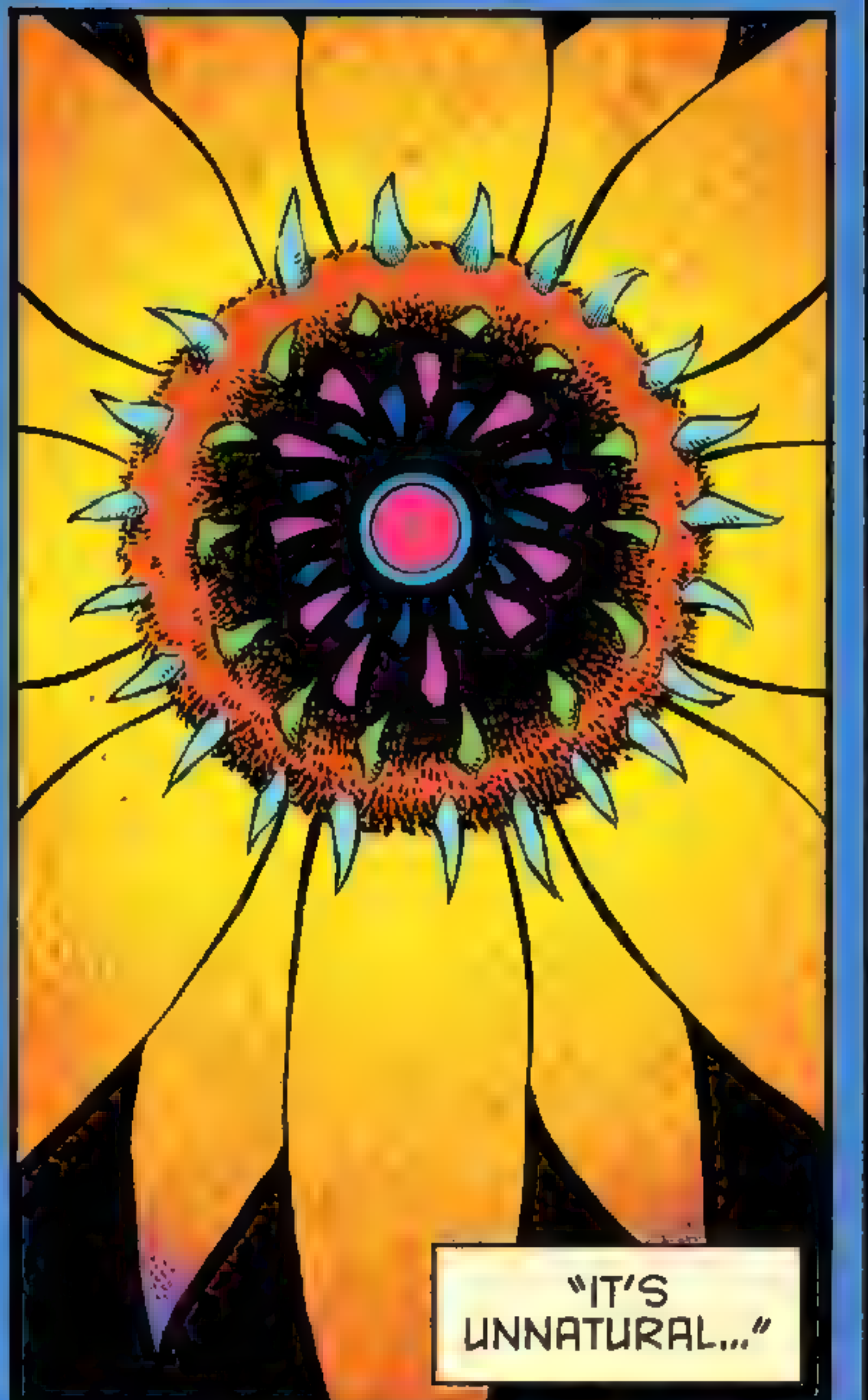
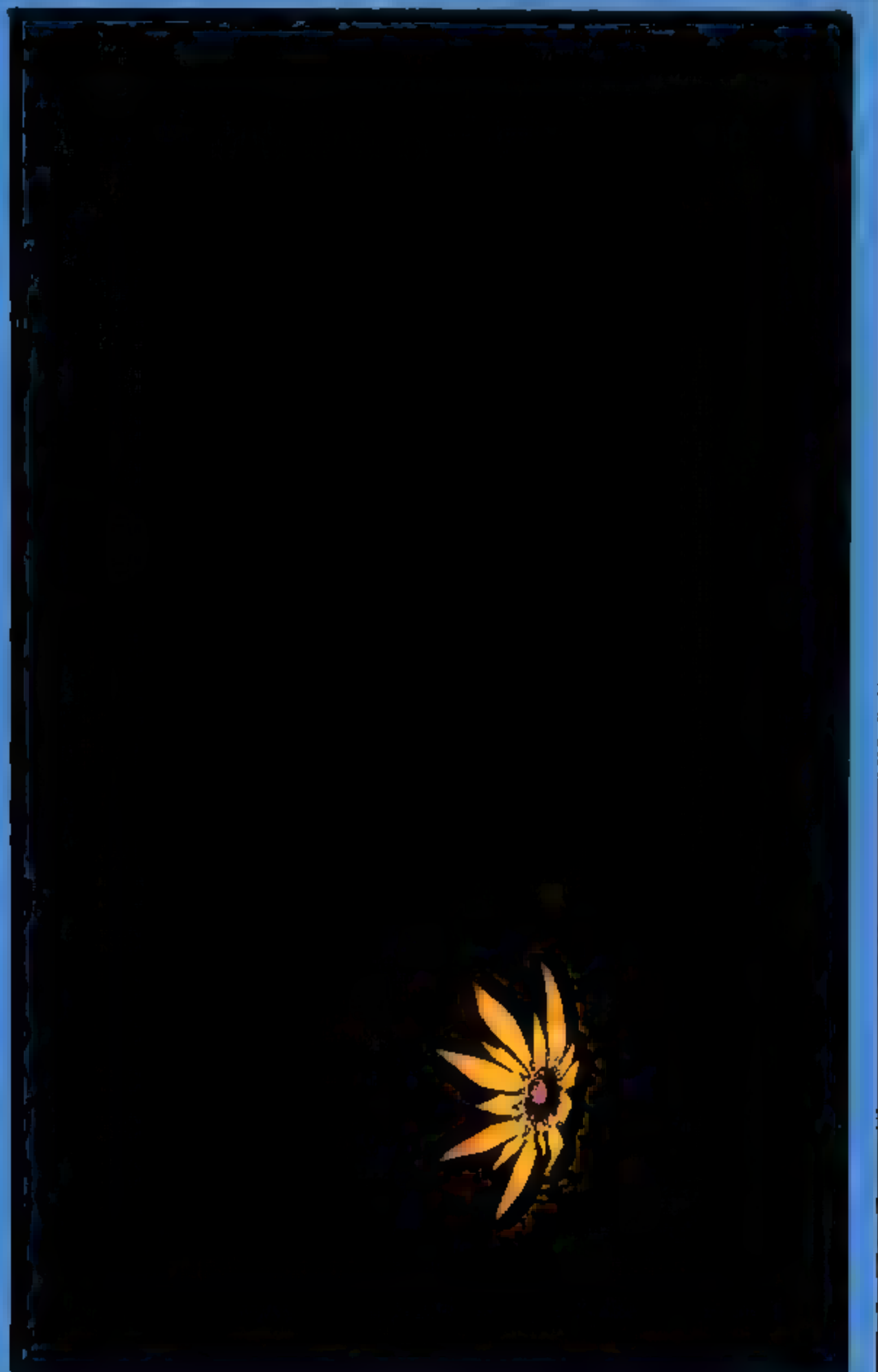
SORRY, "BRUCE."











...I GET IT. I MEAN, I KNOW IT MUST FEEL THAT WAY. ME, JIM GORDON, COMING TO YOU, BRUCE WAYNE, AND SAYING THAT. BUT STILL, IT'S WHERE WE ARE.

I'M **BATMAN**. AND I NEED YOUR HELP.



BATMAN. I'VE SEEN YOU ON THE NEWS, YOU KNOW. FIGHTING CRIMINALS IN THAT NEW SUIT. IT'S IMPRESSIVE AND ADMIRABLE, MR. GORDON.

BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BATMAN ANYMORE.



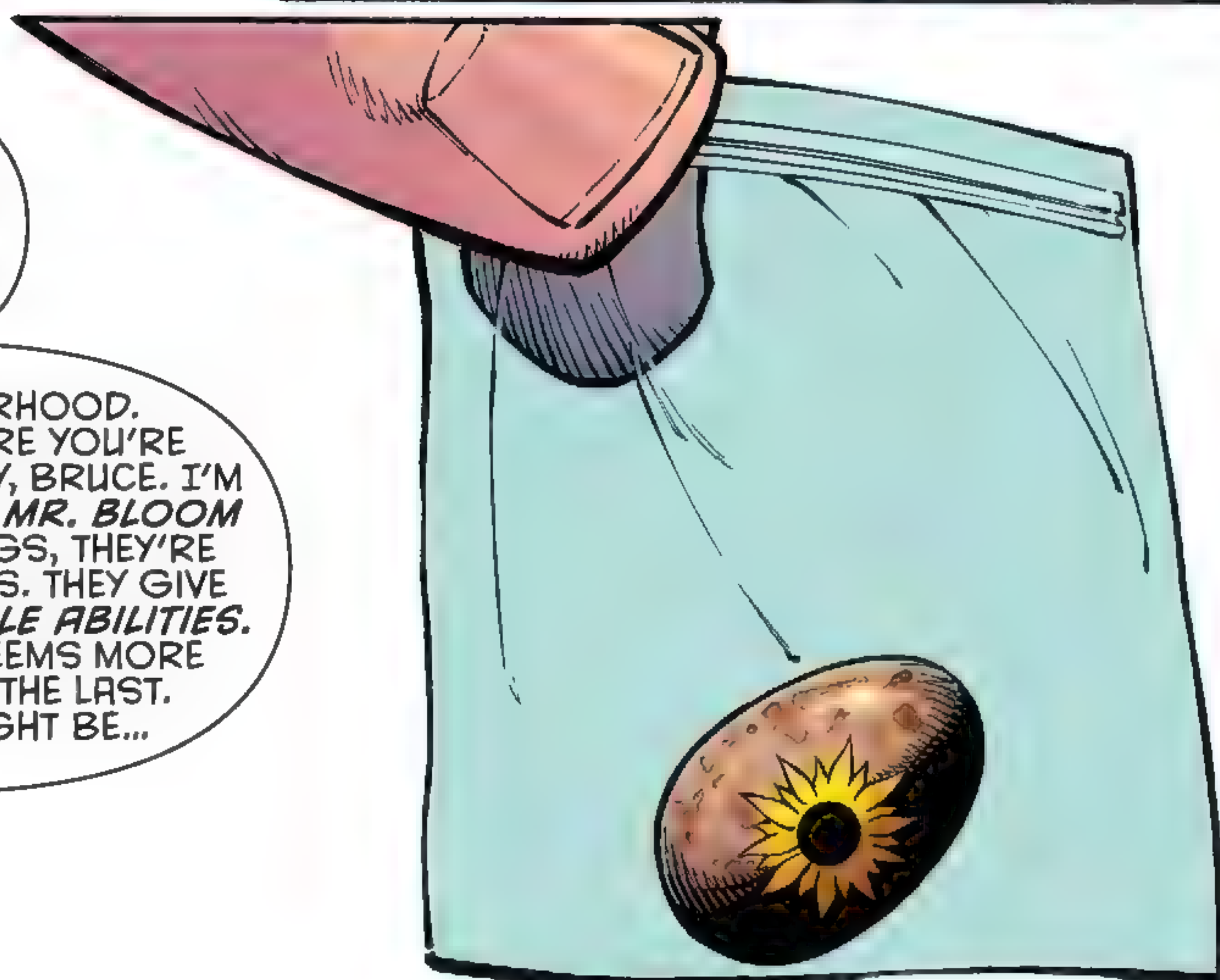
WELL, JUST...HUMOR ME. I WANT TO **SHOW YOU** SOMETHING.

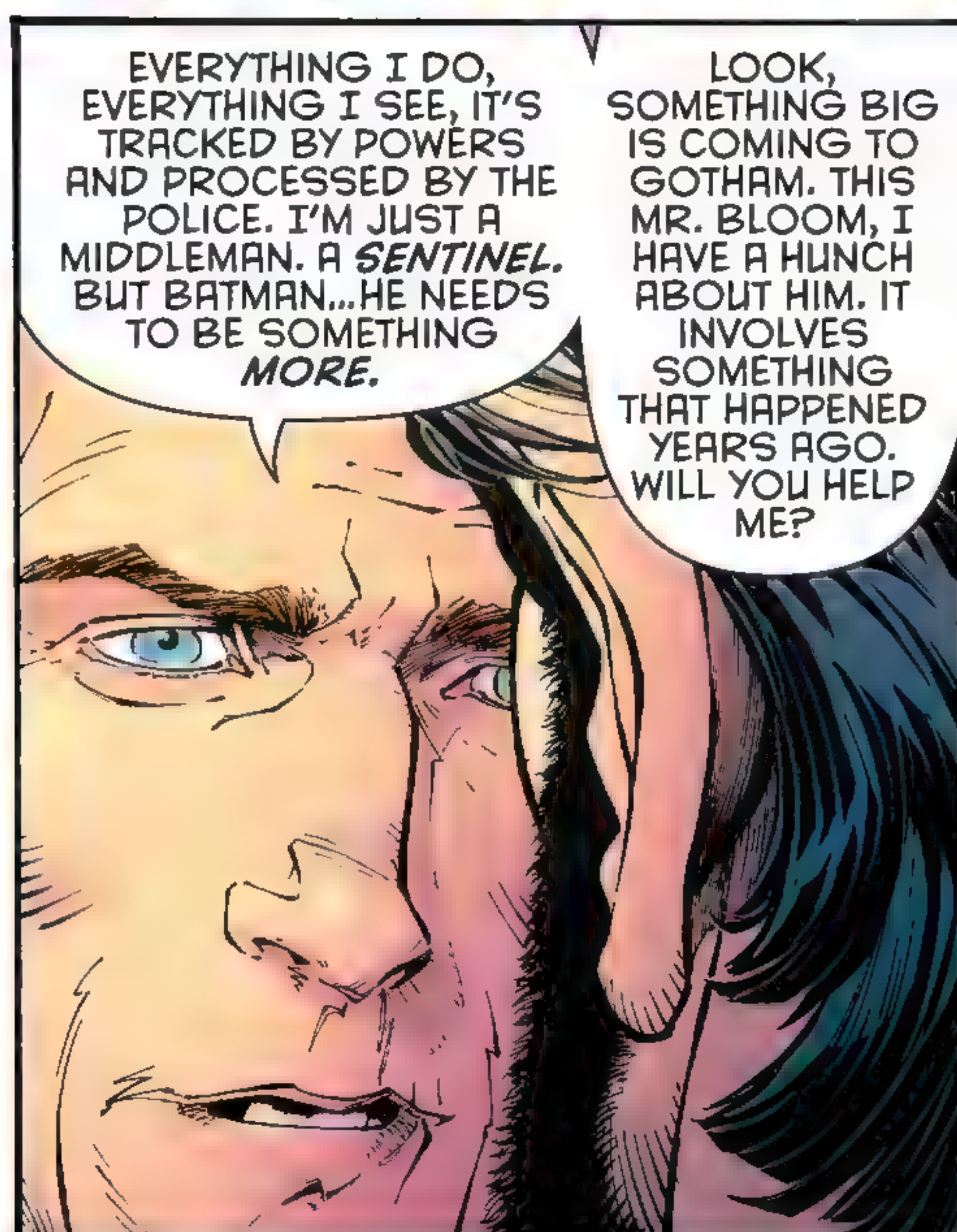
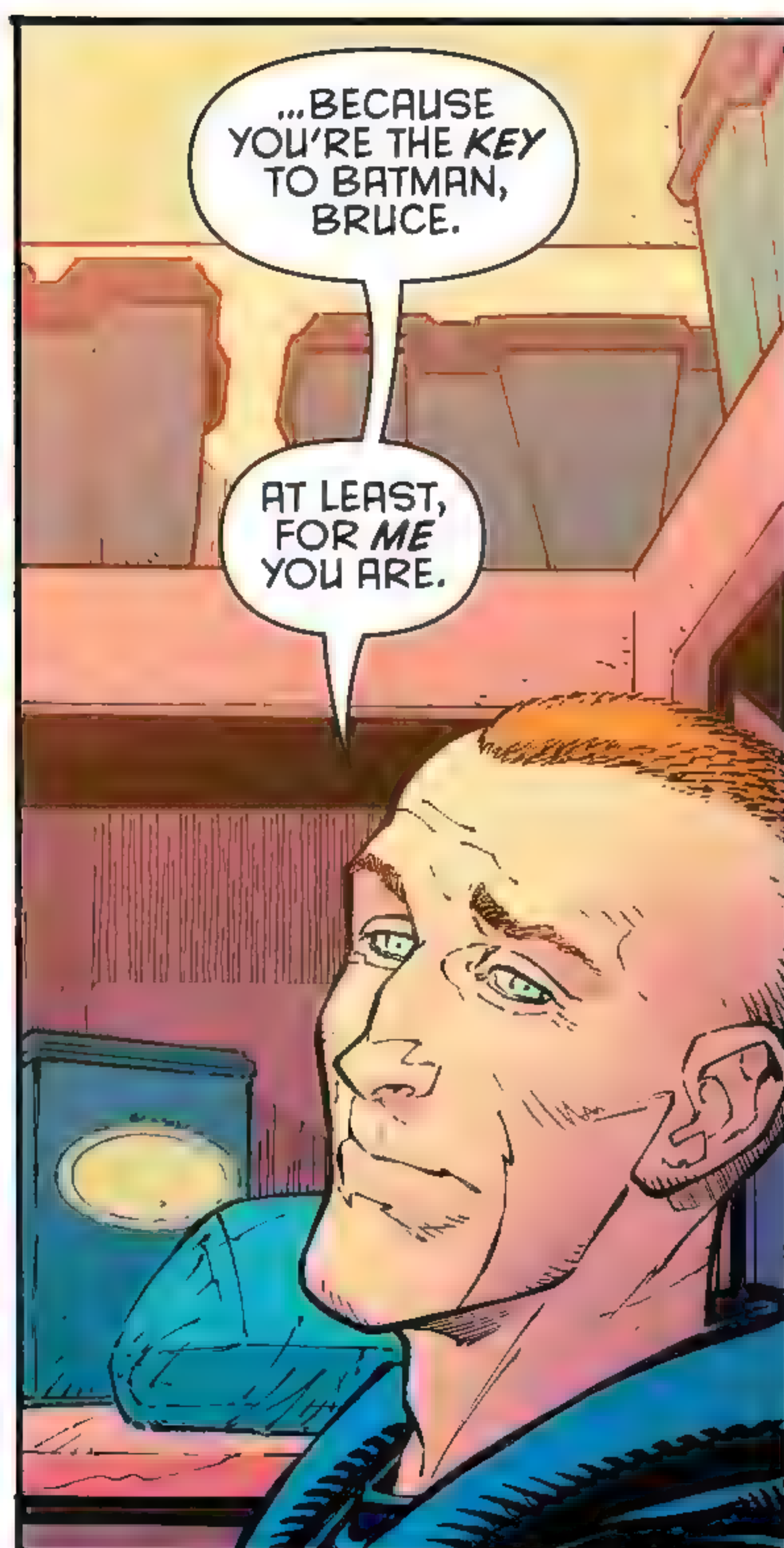


THIS THING, THIS "SEED," SOMEONE IS MAKING THESE AND SELLING THEM TO BAD PEOPLE IN THE NARROWS.

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. RIGHT HERE, WHERE YOU'RE WORKING EVERY DAY, BRUCE. I'M NOT SURE WHO THIS **MR. BLOOM** IS, BUT THESE THINGS, THEY'RE POWERFUL WEAPONS. THEY GIVE THEIR USERS **TERRIBLE ABILITIES**. AND EACH SEED SEEMS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE LAST. SOON, THEY MIGHT BE...

I JUST... COULD USE YOUR HELP.



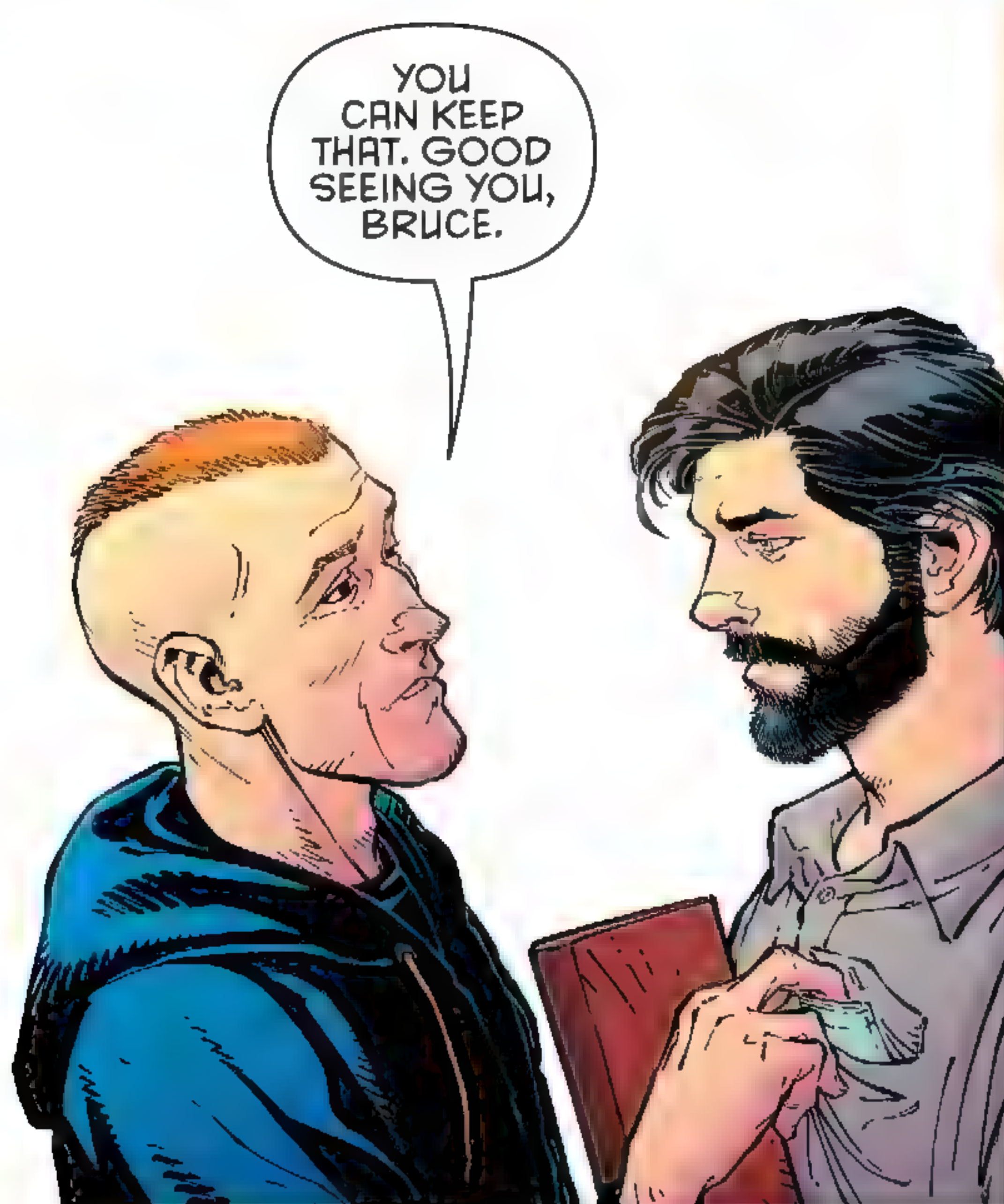


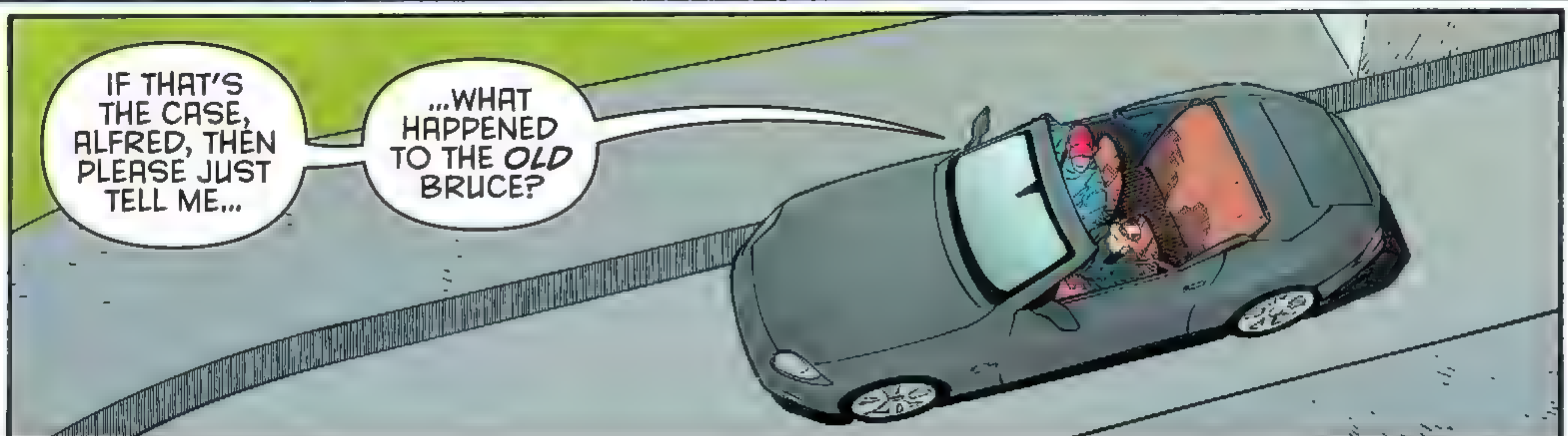
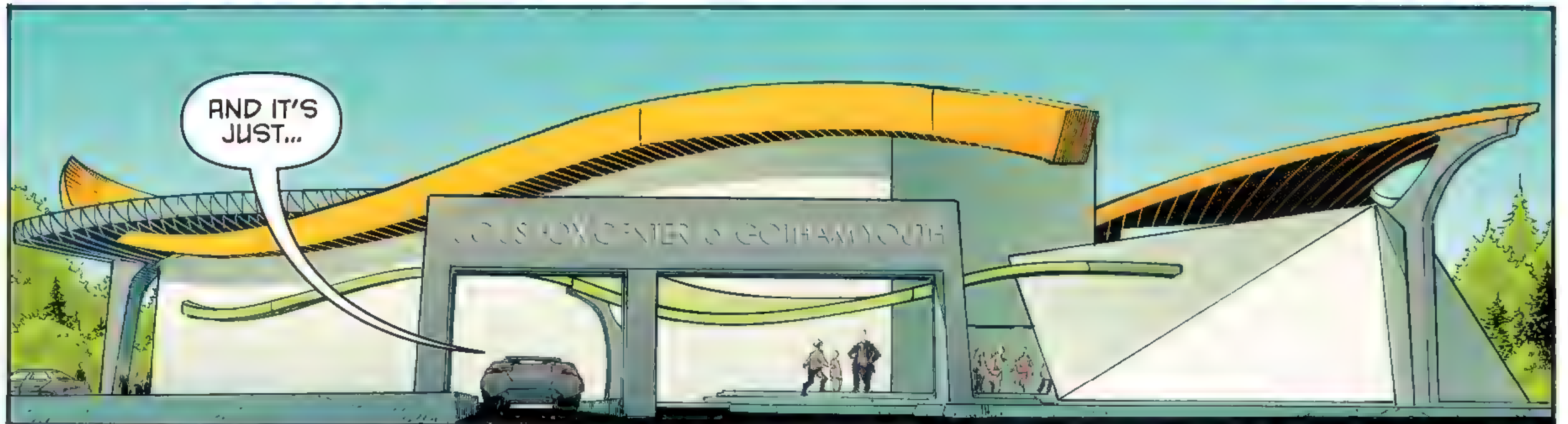
IT'S FUNNY, MR. GORDON. THIS REC CENTER? IT WAS SET UP BY LUCIUS FOX, A FRIEND OF MY FATHER'S. HE BUILT IT FOR ALL THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE NARROWS. THE CORNER. LITTLE CUBA...A SAFE PLACE FOR KIDS TO COME, TO PLAY. TO *TALK*.

WHEN LUCIUS OPENED THE DOORS, HE STARTED A POLICY. ON YOUR FIRST DAY HERE, YOU HAVE TO MAKE A *BRICK*. YOU CUT THE CLAY, YOU PAINT IT, YOU PUT IT IN THE KILN. BAKE IT. THEN YOU PUT IT OUT BACK. THERE'S A *WALL*. SOME BRICKS ARE FROM DECADES AGO.

NOW, WITH THE WAY THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WAS WRECKED DURING THE JOKER'S ATTACK, A LOT OF THE KIDS ARE MISSING HOMES, FRIENDS, *FAMILY* MEMBERS...

BUT THEIR BRICKS ARE HERE WHEN THEY COME. THEY'RE ALWAYS OUT BACK, IN THE WALL.





"THEY SAY A PARENT CAN
FEEL IT WHEN THEIR CHILD
LEAVES THE EARTH.

"I NEVER
BELIEVED IT.
ALL THE TIMES
BEFORE...

"BUT WHEN
THAT CAVE
COLLAPSED
ON HIM AND
THE JOKER,
I...I *FELT* IT.

"THE OTHERS
HAD BEEN
HOPEFUL,
WORKING IN
SHIFTS, BUT
I KNEW.

"THE PHONE CALL
CAME THREE WEEKS
AFTER HE WENT
MISSING. I WAS
WAITING FOR IT BY
THE *FURNACE*, READY
TO BURN ALL TRACES
OF BATMAN'S
MISSION.

"IT WAS *JULIA* WHO FOUND
HIM. HIS BODY WAS INTACT,
READY TO COME HOME.

"SO I DROVE
TO THE SITE TO
COLLECT HIM.

"THE MAN I'D CARED
FOR AS A BABY, THEN A
BOY, THEN AN *ANGRY*
YOUNG MAN...

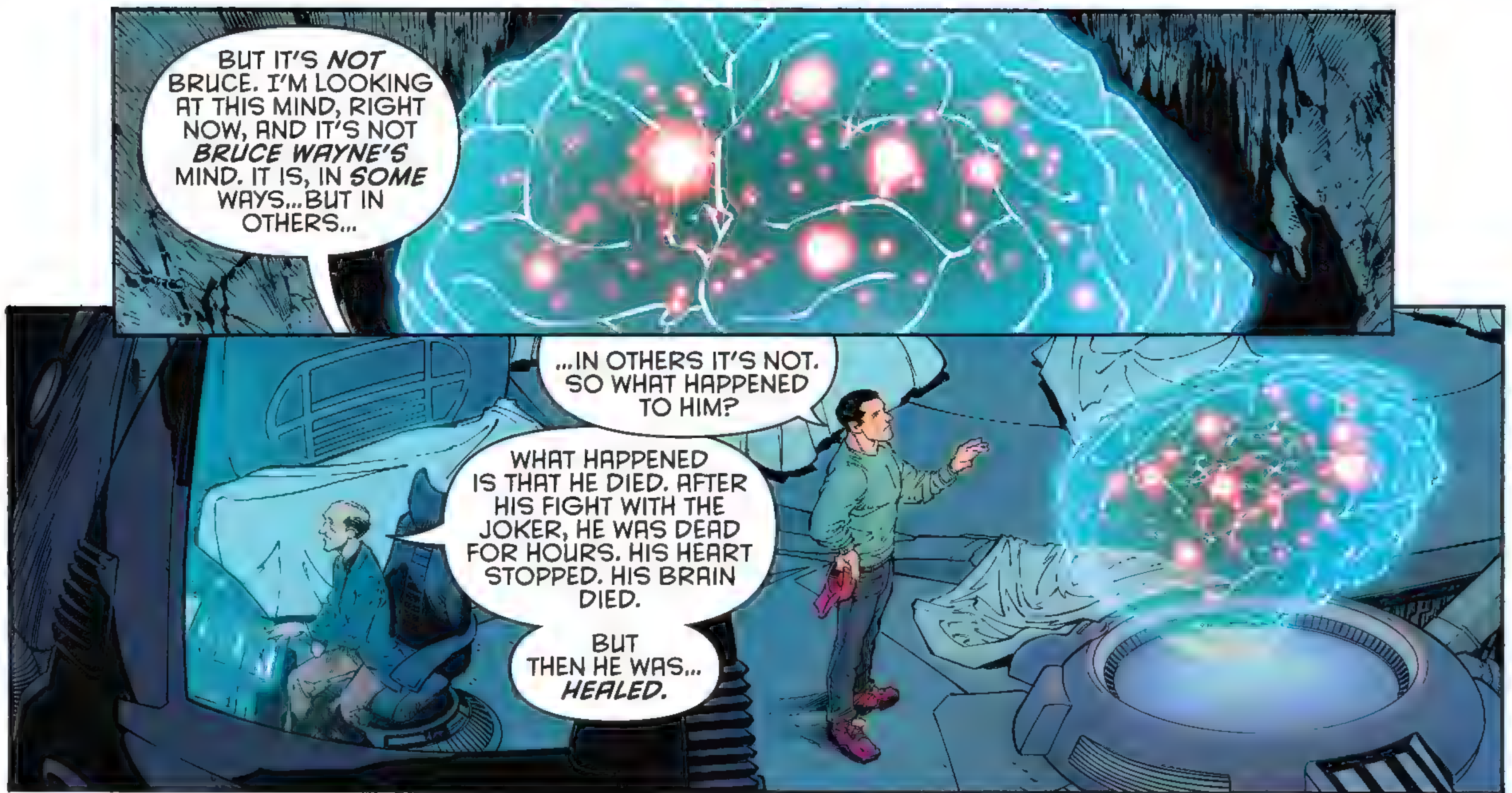
"I'D TAKE CARE
OF HIM ONE LAST
TIME, BEFORE
LAYING HIM TO
REST.

"BUT WHEN I
ARRIVED...

"I
SAW..."

"HE'D COME
BACK TO *LIFE*.
JULIA COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
IT. SHE'D HAD
HIM IN THE BAG,
SHE'D BEEN
ZIPPING HIM
UP, WHEN...
HE'D JUST
WOKEN UP.

"MY BRUCE."

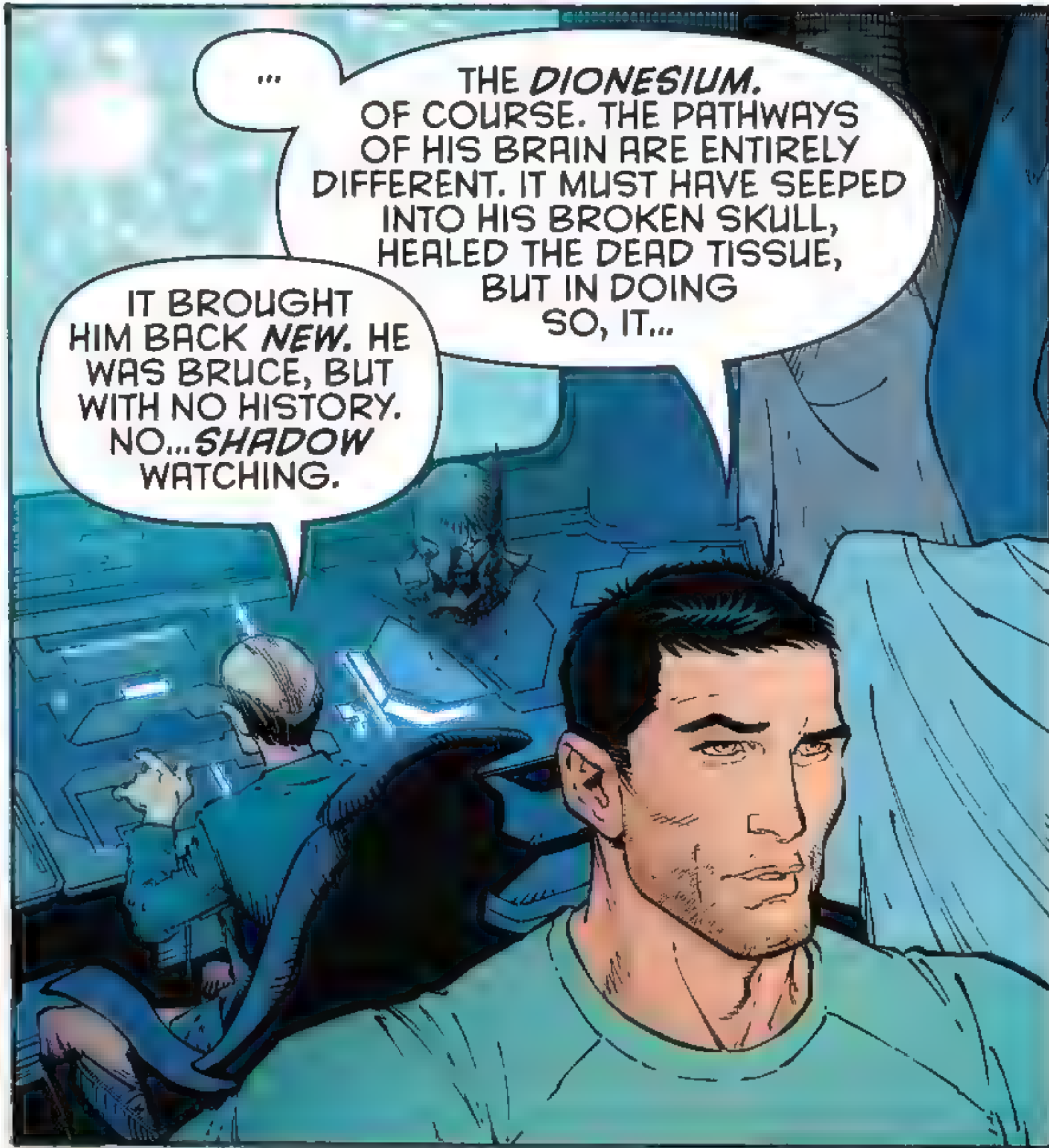


BUT IT'S *NOT* BRUCE. I'M LOOKING AT THIS MIND, RIGHT NOW, AND IT'S NOT *BRUCE WAYNE'S* MIND. IT IS, IN *SOME* WAYS...BUT IN OTHERS...

...IN OTHERS IT'S NOT. SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT HE DIED. AFTER HIS FIGHT WITH THE JOKER, HE WAS DEAD FOR HOURS. HIS HEART STOPPED. HIS BRAIN DIED.

BUT THEN HE WAS... *HEALED.*



... THE *DIONESIUM*. OF COURSE. THE PATHWAYS OF HIS BRAIN ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. IT MUST HAVE SEEPED INTO HIS BROKEN SKULL, HEALED THE DEAD TISSUE, BUT IN DOING SO, IT...

IT BROUGHT HIM BACK *NEW*. HE WAS BRUCE, BUT WITH NO HISTORY. NO...*SHADOW* WATCHING.



BUT YOU *TOLD* HIM, ALFRED. YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS LIFE.

I DID. IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST THINGS I'VE EVER HAD TO DO.

"TO WALK THIS MAN THROUGH THE *TRAGEDY* OF HIS OWN LIFE AGAIN. TO TAKE HIM, UNFORMED, THIS PERSON YOU LOVE, AND TWIST THE *CLAY* OF THEM INTO A MALFORMED THING. WORKING MY WAY TO *BATMAN*."

"I TOLD HIM HE'D BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT DURING THE JOKER'S ATTACK, AND THEN I STARTED AT THE BEGINNING. I TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS CHILDHOOD, ABOUT HIS *PARENTS'* DEATH. I TOLD HIM HOW WHEN THEY DIED, HE'D BECOME ANGRY, DRIVEN... HOW HE'D TURNED THAT INTO FUEL TO *HELP* THE CITY."



"HOW HE'D BUILT WAYNE ENTERPRISES INTO SOMETHING *HEROIC* AND SPECIAL."

"HOW HE'D BEEN A *SYMBOL*. ALL THE WHILE, WORKING MY WAY TO THE LAST TRUTH. A TERRIBLE MONOLOGUE ON A TERRIBLE STAGE."

"AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL HIM THE LAST TRUTH, TO OPEN THAT LAST, WORST DOOR, WHEN--"

STOP.

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, ALFRED.

BUT THERE'S MORE, BRUCE.

I'M SURE THERE IS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS ACCIDENT DID TO ME, BUT I'M... I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU'RE DESCRIBING. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE. I KNOW I LOVED YOU. I LOOK AT THESE PICTURES, AND I KNOW I LOVED *THEM*. BUT I DON'T FEEL THEIR LOSS.

I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR THAT BOY IN THE ALLEY, BUT I CAN'T BE WHO HE WAS. IT'S NOT WHO I AM.

"FOR TWO DAYS, I DIDN'T SEE HIM.

"AND THEN, ON THE THIRD DAY, HE REAPPEARED AND SAID SOMETHING THAT LIFTED MY HEART."

I MAY NOT BE THE MAN I WAS, BUT I WANT TO HELP. IN MY OWN WAY, THOUGH. FACE-TO-FACE. MY MOTHER WORKED IN SCHOOLS. MY FATHER WORKED IN CITY HOSPITALS. THAT FEELS RIGHT. THAT FEELS LIKE ME.

...
WELL, THEN...WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU, MASTER BRUCE?

"NOW THIS CITY, MR. KENT, IT NEVER GIVES ANYTHING BACK. *NEVER*."

"BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, NOT A MINUTE AFTER BRUCE SAID THIS TO ME, THE DOORBELL RANG.

"A *MISS JULIE MADISON*, COMING TO CHECK ON BRUCE. SHE'D HEARD HE'D HAD AN ACCIDENT DURING THE ATTACK. A GIRLFRIEND FROM HIS YOUTH. WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE NARROWS..."

"THE CITY...IT NEVER GIVES. BUT IT GAVE."

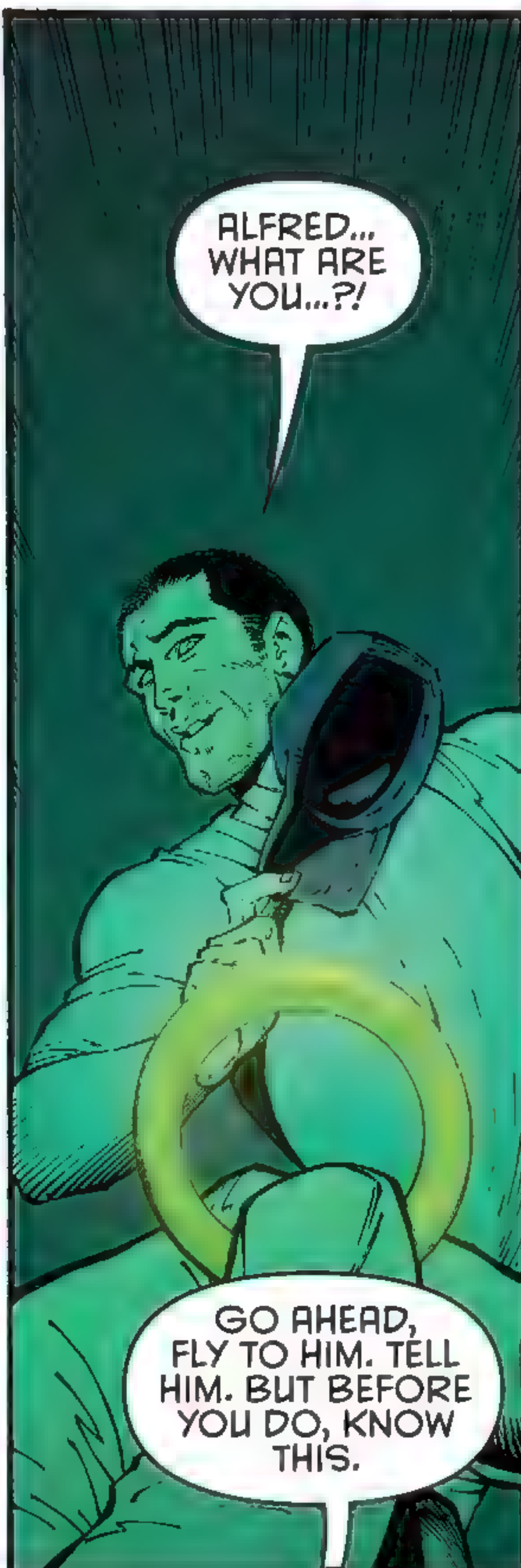


YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM, ALFRED. NOT JUST THAT HE'S BRUCE WAYNE, BUT THAT HE'S **BATMAN**.

I'M SORRY, BUT IF YOU DON'T, I WILL.



IS THAT SO?



ALFRED... WHAT ARE YOU...?!

GO AHEAD, FLY TO HIM. TELL HIM. BUT BEFORE YOU DO, KNOW THIS.

BRUCE WAYNE HAS NO COMBAT SKILLS. NO **DETECTION** SKILLS. EVERY BIT OF HIS FIFTEEN YEARS OF **TRAINING** AND EXPERIENCE AS **BATMAN** IS GONE.

AND IT'S NOT RECOVERABLE, BECAUSE THE MEMORIES WERE **NEVER THERE**. IT'S A NEW BRAIN.

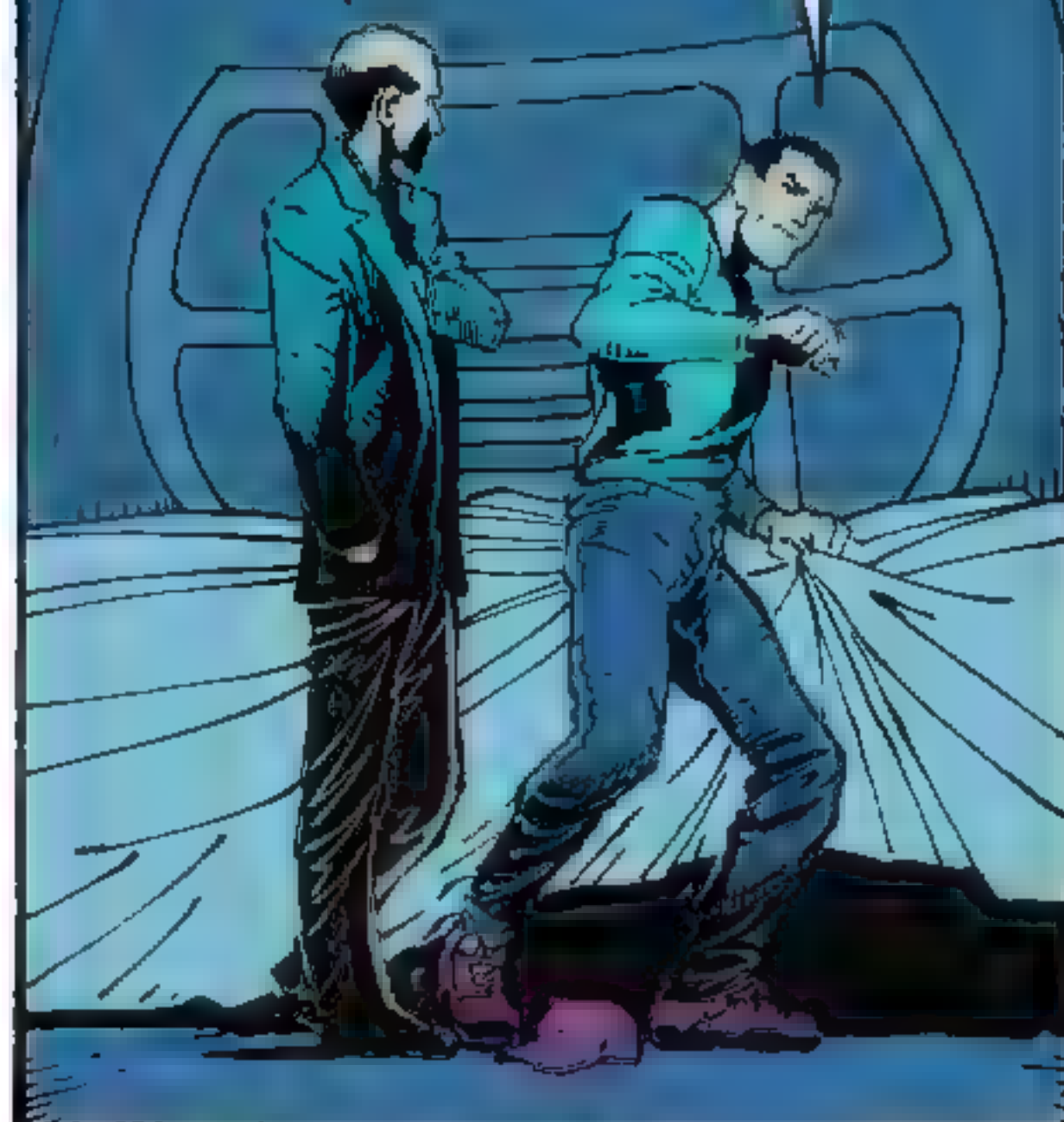
ASKING HIM TO BE **BATMAN** IS LIKE ME TELLING YOU TO **FLY** UNDER THIS RING'S GLOW. HE IS **POWERLESS**, AND TO WEAR THE COWL WOULD BE A DEATH SENTENCE.



YOU'RE THINKING HE CAN RE-LEARN IT. MAYBE HE CAN, OVER YEARS. BUT REMEMBER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

...**BATMAN** WAS BORN FROM THE SCREAMS OF A YOUNG BOY IN AN ALLEY. FROM HIS PRIMAL PAIN AND ANGER. FROM A SCAR. BUT THAT **SCAR** IS GONE, MR. KENT. HEALED.

ALFRED, YOU CAN SHOW ME IMAGES OF HIS BRAIN, BUT HE'S **BATMAN**. HE'S ALWAYS GOT A WAY OUT. A WAY BACK.



FOLLOW ME A MOMENT, MR. KENT. I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO SHOW YOU IMAGES OF BRUCE'S BRAIN.



I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO SHOW YOU **THIS**.

WHAT IS IT?

SOMETHING HE HID. FROM ALL OF US. **BATMAN'S FINAL INVENTION**.

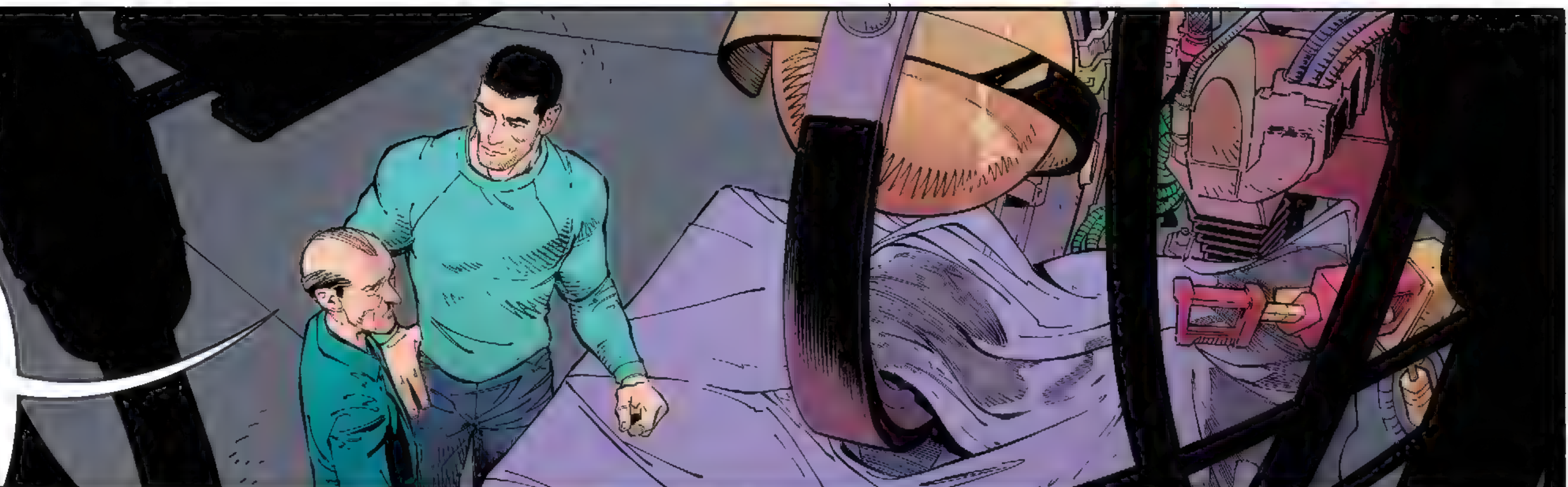


...

IS THIS...?

IT'S A MACHINE MEANT TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A **BATMAN**. A MACHINE THAT HE WAS WORKING ON IN SECRET WHEN HE DIED.

IT WOULD USE HIS DNA TO GROW EACH SUCCESSIVE BRUCE TO AGE TWENTY-SEVEN, INSTILL IN HIM ALL THE ORIGINAL **BRUCE'S** PAIN, ALL HIS TRAINING, ALL HIS MEMORIES, UP TO THE MOMENT HE DECIDED TO BECOME **BATMAN**.



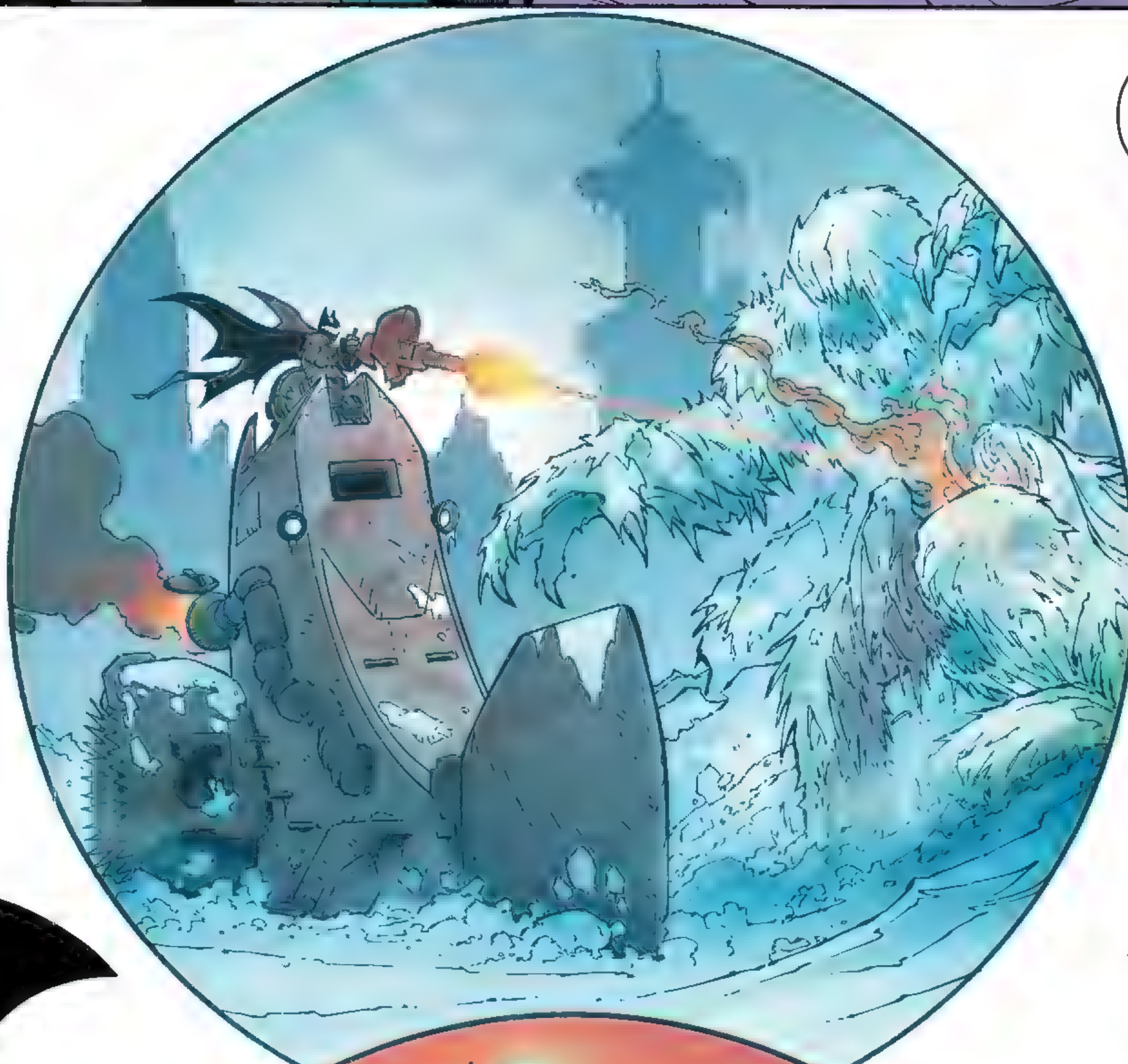
PICTURE IT...

...PICTURE AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF TRAGEDY. EACH VERSION OF HIM SUBJECTED TO THE SAME **HORRORS**.

BRUCE KILLED BY BATMAN SO THAT HE, BATMAN, COULD BE BORN AGAIN. AN **UNNATURAL** GENEALOGY OF THEM.

"YES, FATHER, I SHALL BECOME A BAT," BUT SPOKEN BY BRUCE TO BATMAN, FATHERED BY BATMAN. ONE REPLACING THE NEXT, GENERATION TO GENERATION.

BUT EVEN HE, WITH ALL HIS GENIUS, HE NEVER EVEN CAME CLOSE TO FINISHING IT.

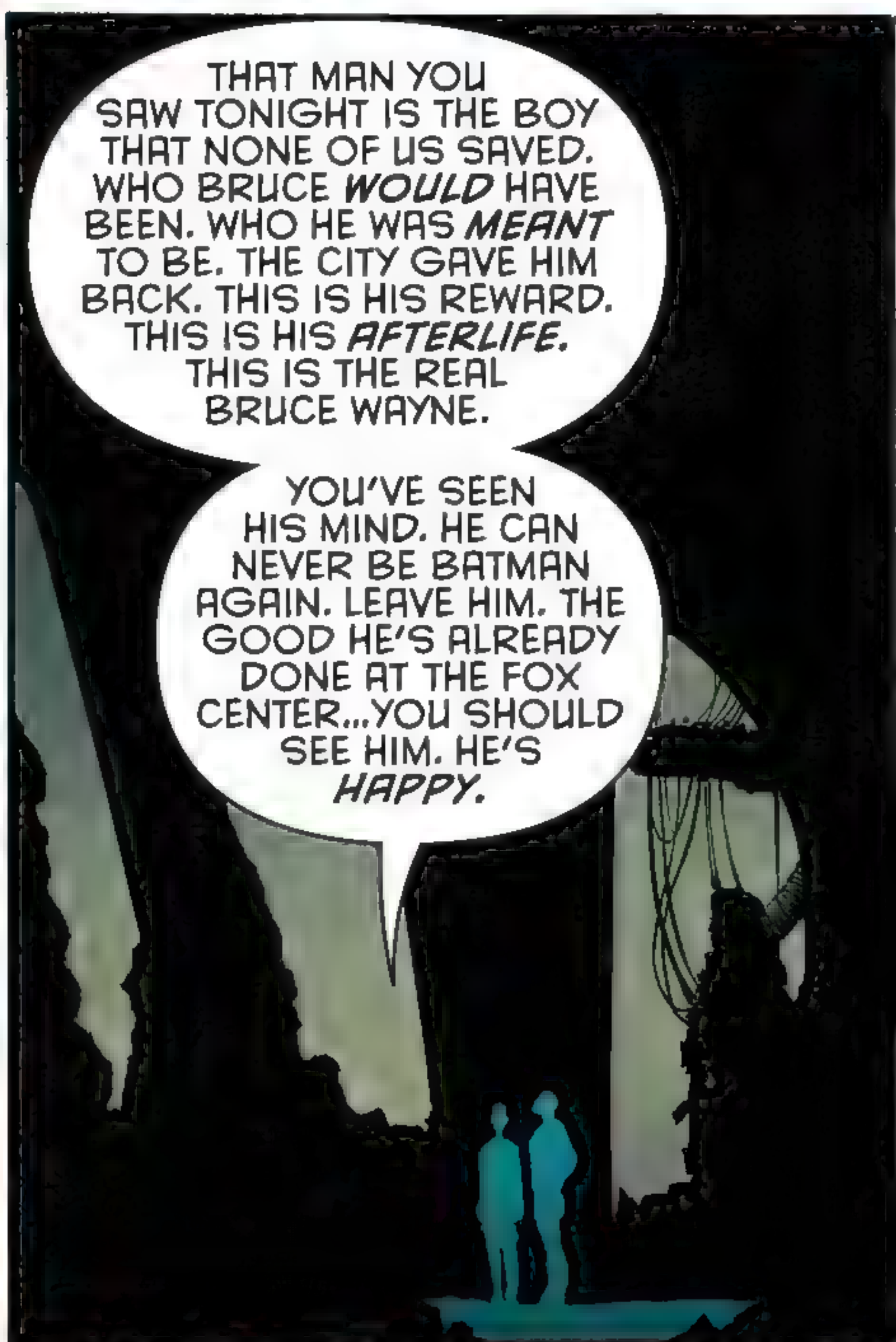


BECAUSE HE WASN'T MEANT TO LIVE FOREVER.

THE CIRCLE WAS MEANT TO BE BROKEN, AND NOW IT HAS BEEN.

DON'T YOU SEE, CLARK? **BATMAN** DIED. AND **BRUCE WAYNE** CAME BACK.

ALFRED...



THAT MAN YOU SAW TONIGHT IS THE BOY THAT NONE OF US SAVED. WHO BRUCE **WOULD** HAVE BEEN. WHO HE WAS **MEANT** TO BE. THE CITY GAVE HIM BACK. THIS IS HIS REWARD. THIS IS HIS **AFTERLIFE**. THIS IS THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE.

YOU'VE SEEN HIS MIND. HE CAN NEVER BE BATMAN AGAIN. LEAVE HIM. THE GOOD HE'S ALREADY DONE AT THE FOX CENTER...YOU SHOULD SEE HIM. HE'S **HAPPY**.



LET HIM LIVE, MR. KENT. CONSIGN THE REST TO THE **FURNACE**. PLEASE...

"...LET SOMEONE ELSE SUFFER FOR THIS CURSED CITY."

HI, THERE.

I READ YOU. YOU'RE CHARGED. FIRING IN THREE, TWO, ONE...

POW

THE CHARGE CAUSES THE MOLECULES TO CONTRACT AGAINST YOUR FINGERS...

...SHRINKING THE GLASS. NO NEED TO CUT OR SHATTER THE PANE.

WITH GREAT STICKINESS COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT. THAT ONE CHARGE WAS PRETTY MUCH ALL I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT ALERTING POWERS TO THE SUIT'S ABSENCE.

YOU'LL NEED TO USE IT AS A COSTUME, NOTHING MORE.

I CAN DO THAT. I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HALF THE FUNCTIONS IN THIS THING YET ANYWAY.

FEET WARMERS?

YOU'RE JOKING.

AM I? MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE BIG PRESENTATION TONIGHT. THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT? GERI IS LIKELY LOOKING TO SORT YOU OUT, JIM.

SO BE IT. WE NEED TO LEARN ABOUT MR. BLOOM.

AND THIS PLACE... IF QI TSU DID BUSINESS WITH HIM, THERE'LL BE A RECORD OF BLOOM HERE. AS LEADER OF THE DEVIL PIGS, HE'D HAVE TO RECORD EVERYTHING, SEND THE MATERIAL TO HIGHER-UPS OVERSEAS.

THAT'S
SOME GIANT
CAVIAR YOU'RE
PASSING.

I'LL SAVE YOU SOME. THE
DEVIL PIGS MADE THEIR NAME
RUNNING *HATCHERIES* LIKE
THIS. SMUGGLING
CONTRABAND INSIDE
FROZEN FISH.

THE PIGS HAVE
BEEN GOTHAM STAPLES
FOR NEARLY A HUNDRED
YEARS. THEM, THE WHISPER
GANG. THE GREENLINE FOURS,
PREVIOUSLY THE FOUR-FIVES...
THESE GANGS GO BACK.
THEY'RE EMBEDDED IN
GOTHAM'S STREETS,
ITS HISTORY.

AS
COMMISSIONER,
I DID SOME DAMAGE
TO THEM. MORE
THROUGH *OUTREACH*
THAN ARRESTS,
BUT STILL.

THE LAST YEAR,
WITH WHAT HAPPENED
TO ME, BEING *ARRESTED*,
THEN THE DESTRUCTION
OF JOKER'S ENDGAME...
IT'S LIKE WE'RE BACK
TO SQUARE ONE
LATELY.

STILL, THESE
DIFFERENT GANGS.
THEY'D EAT EACH
OTHER ALIVE
BEFOR--

Whap

LORD,
GOD.

TELL ME
THOSE WEREN'T
HORNS ON A
SHARK.

SOMEONE
CALL PETA.

BUT AS I WAS
SAYING...THESE
GANGS HATE
EACH OTHER.

THEY HAVE
FOR DECADES.
HOW THE HELL IS
THIS MR. BLOOM
GETTING THEM
ALL TO COME
TO HIM? AND
WHERE IS
HE?

...
Ah.

NOW.
WHO ARE
YOU...?

A
FRIEND.

*TAKTAK
TAK*



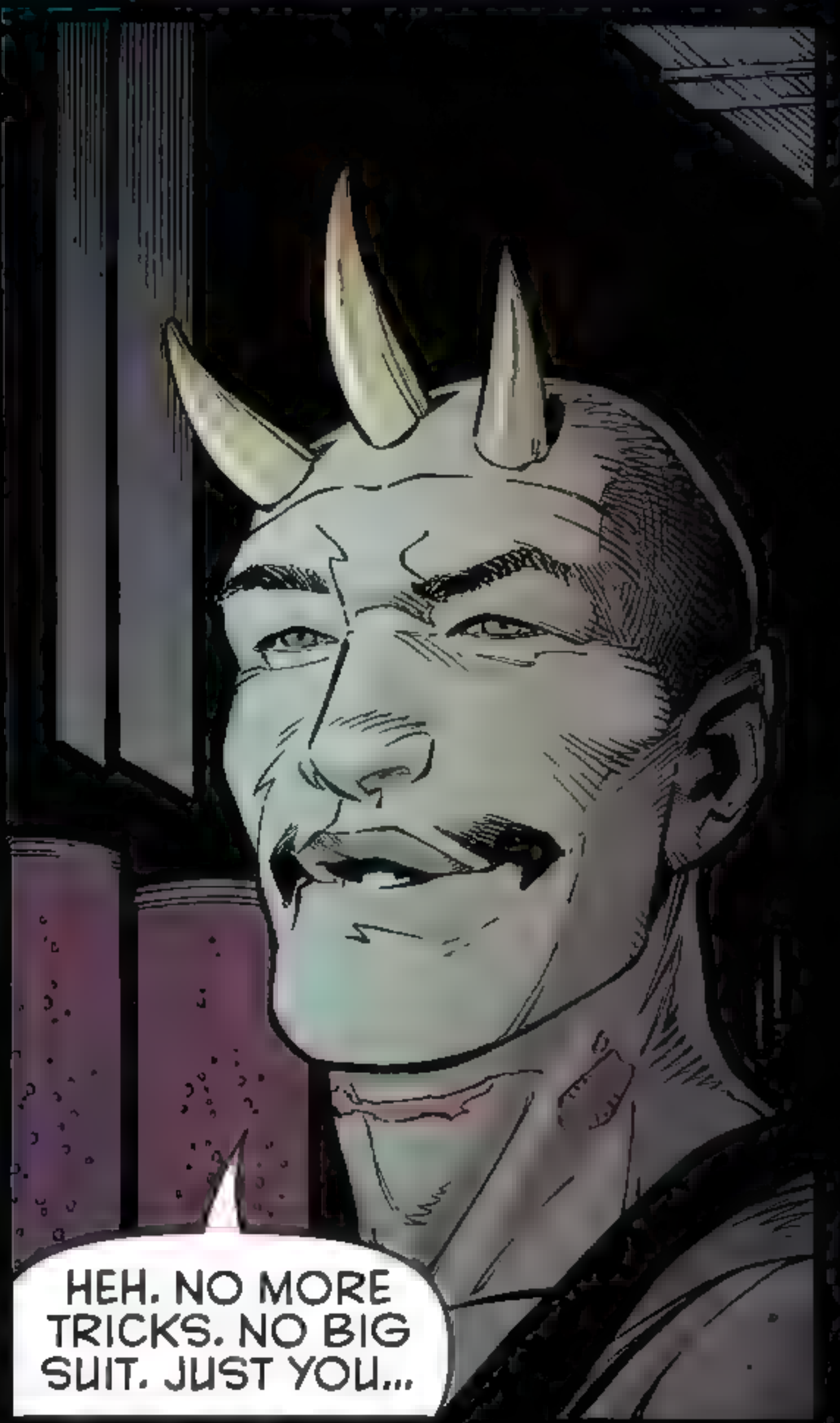
HE'S A FRIEND
TO ALL OF US. HE
MAKES US THINGS.
YOU'LL SEE.



AW, I MADE YOU
SOMETHING, TOO, Q/.
COME HERE, I'LL GIVE
IT TO YOU.



BATMAN,
THEY'RE USING
SOME KIND OF
BLOCKER... I
CAN'T GET YOU
INTO STEALTH
MODE. IT'S LIKE
THEY KNOW THE--
FREQUENCY.
LIKE THEY'RE
ON TO US.



HEH. NO MORE
TRICKS. NO BIG
SUIT. JUST YOU...

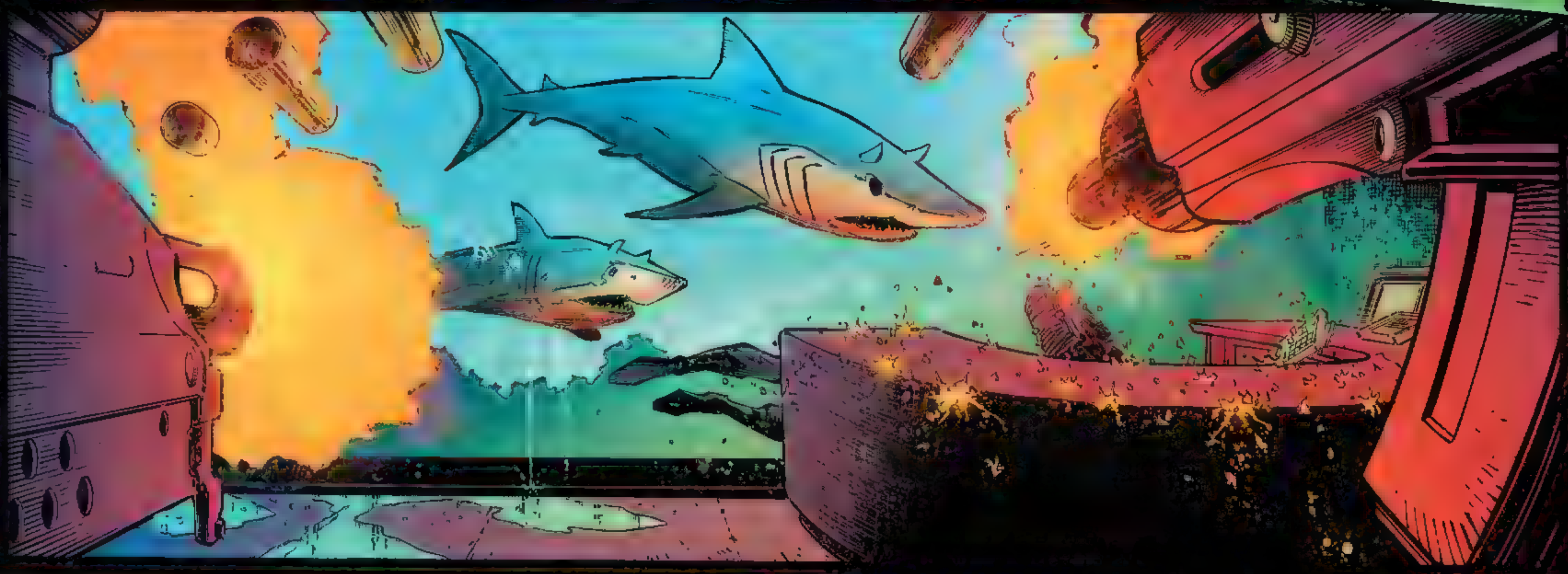


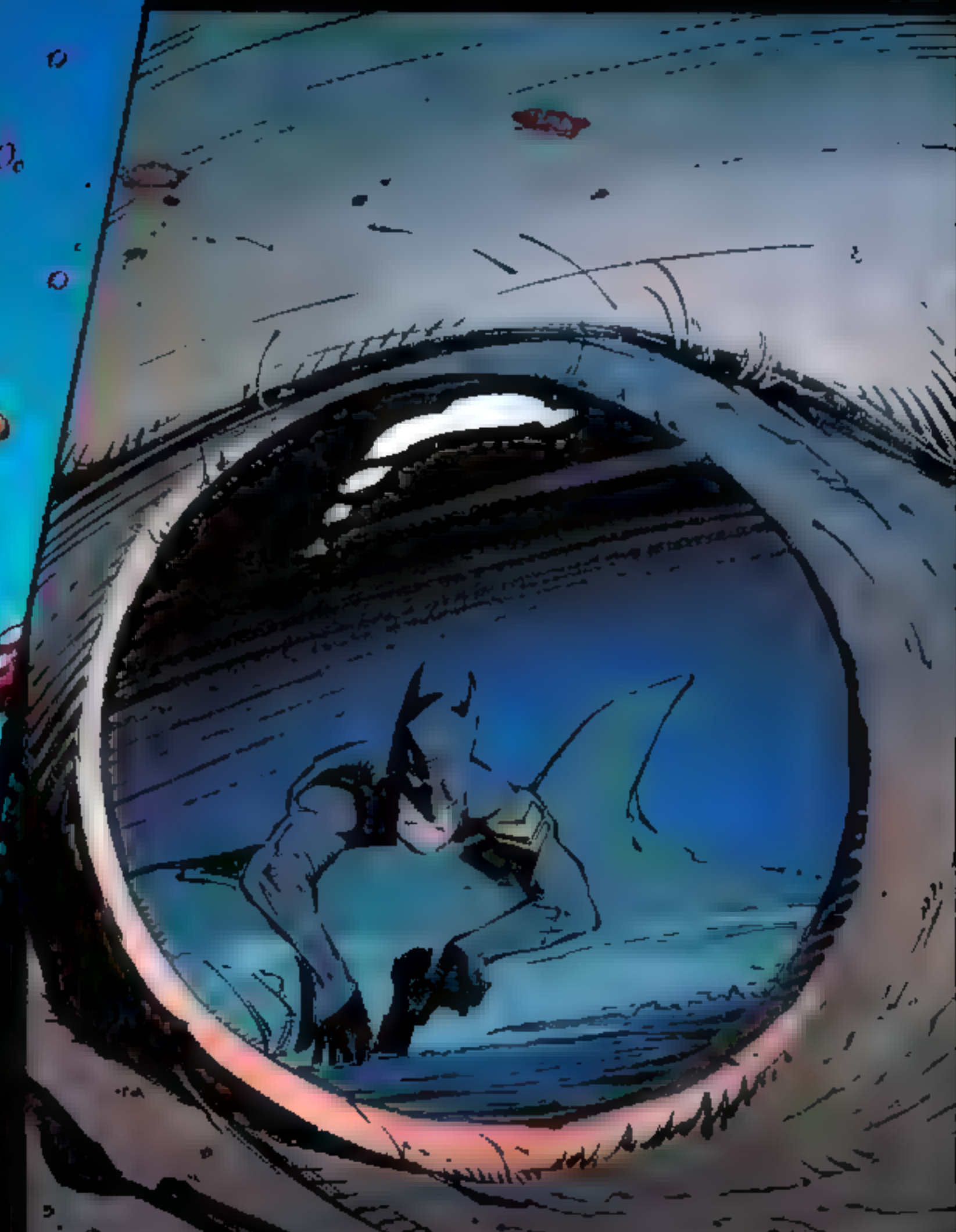
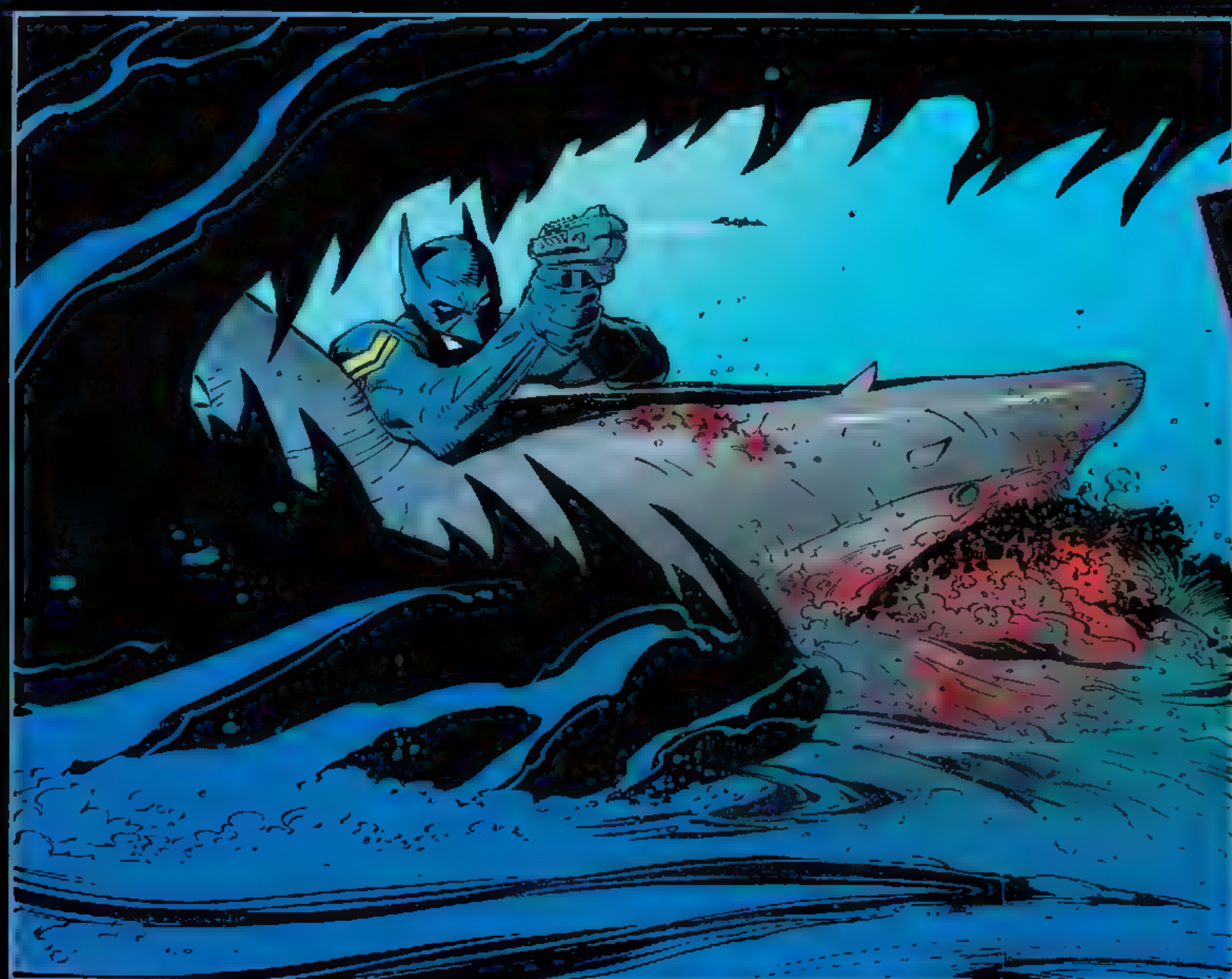
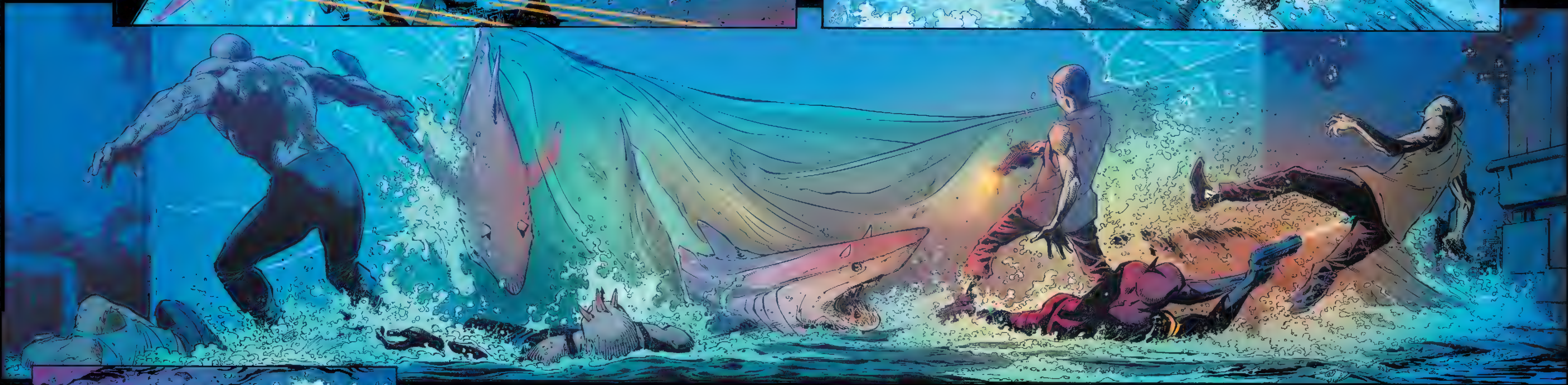
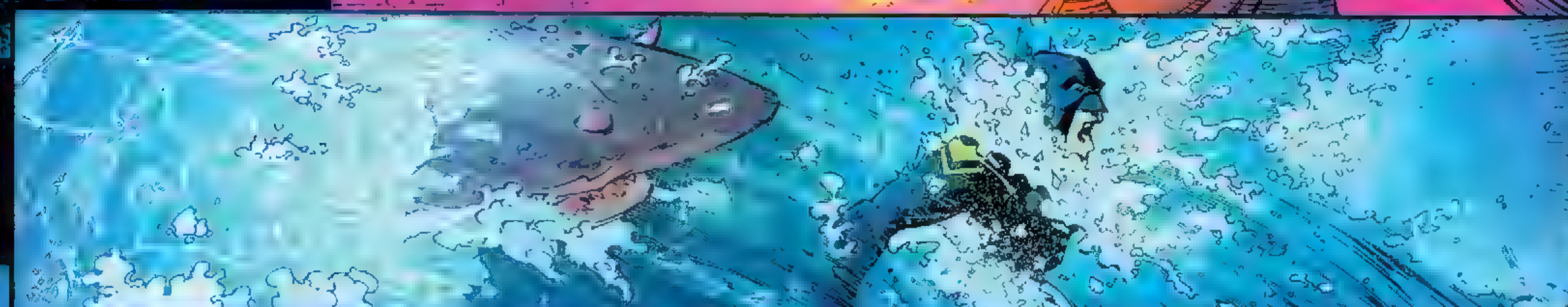
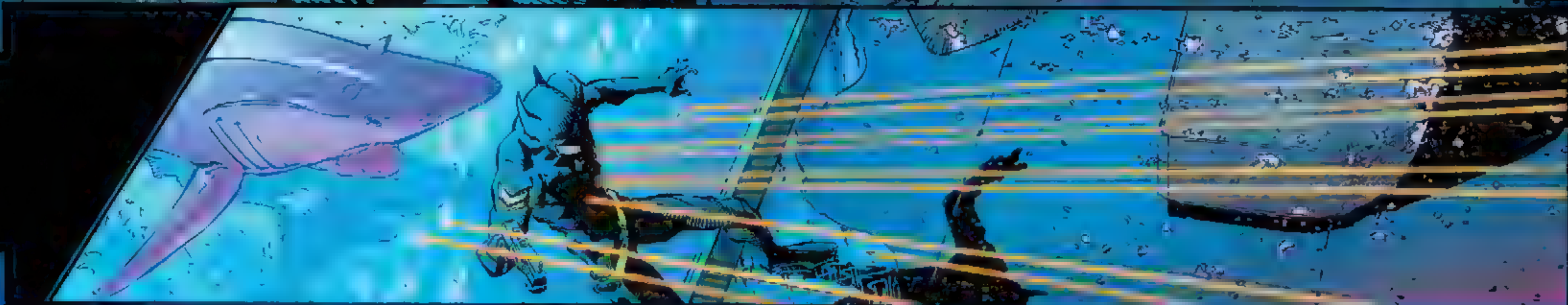
...AND
US.

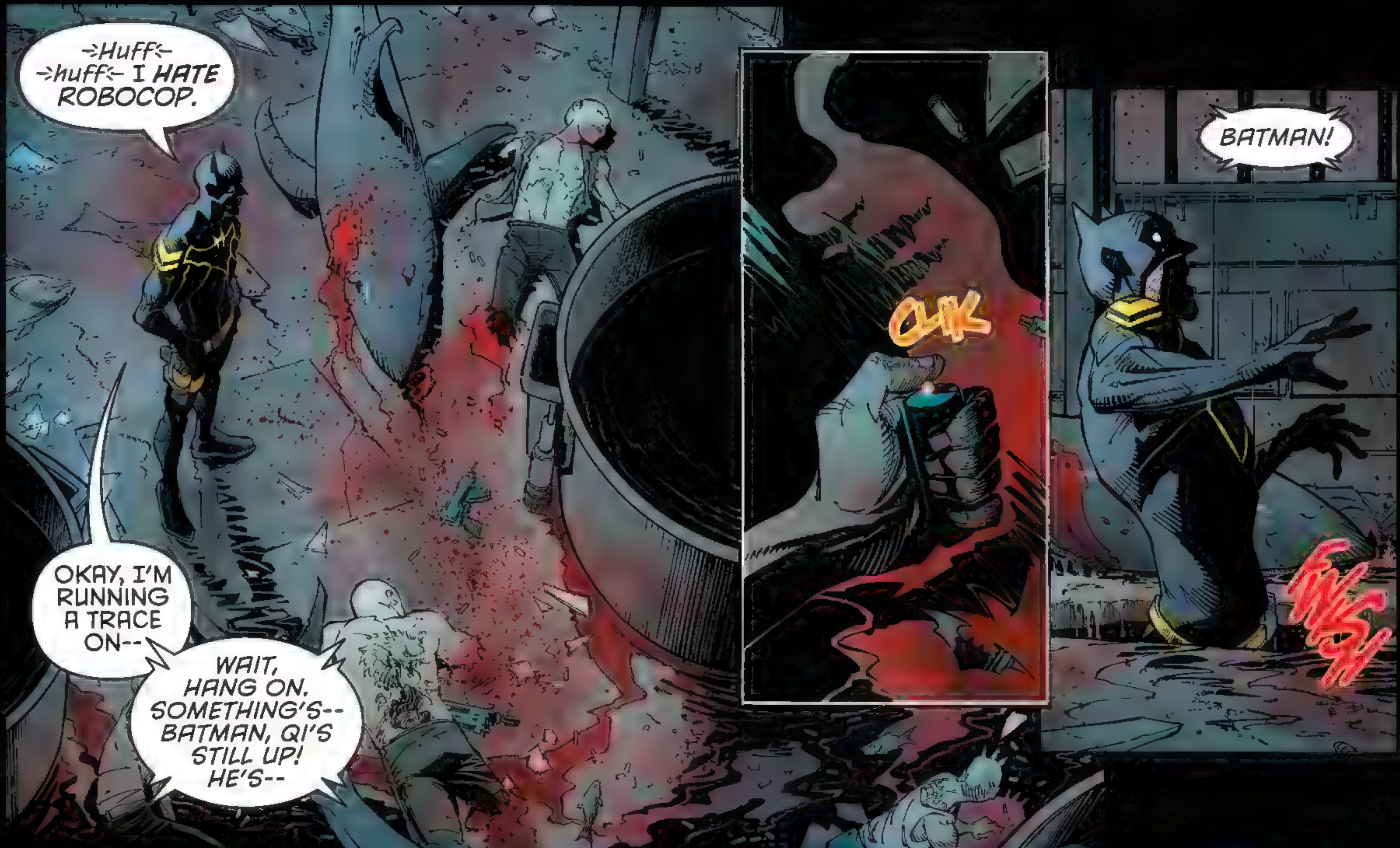
TELL ME,
"BATMAN," HAVE
YOU EVER SEEN
ROBOCOP?

THERE
ARE SEVEN
PIGS. YOU DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
BATARANGS
TO--

DON'T
WORRY...







→Huff→
→huff→ I HATE
ROBOCOP.

BATMAN!

OKAY, I'M
RUNNING
A TRACE
ON--

WAIT,
HANG ON.
SOMETHING'S--
BATMAN, QI'S
STILL UP!
HE'S--

OK

WES



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT? THE
READINGS ON
THE ROOM...

→Ugh→ I'M FINE.
IT'S AN INDUSTRIAL
FURNACE. FOR DESTROYING
EVIDENCE. STEEL WALLS,
LEAD-BACKED. NO WAY OUT.



GOOD
GOD, THE
TEMPERATURE...

TWO
HUNDRED AND
→Ugh→...RISING.
FAST. NO
EXIT.

BATMAN,
THE SUIT CAN'T
WITHSTAND THAT!
YOU'RE GOING TO
BE COOKED
ALIVE!

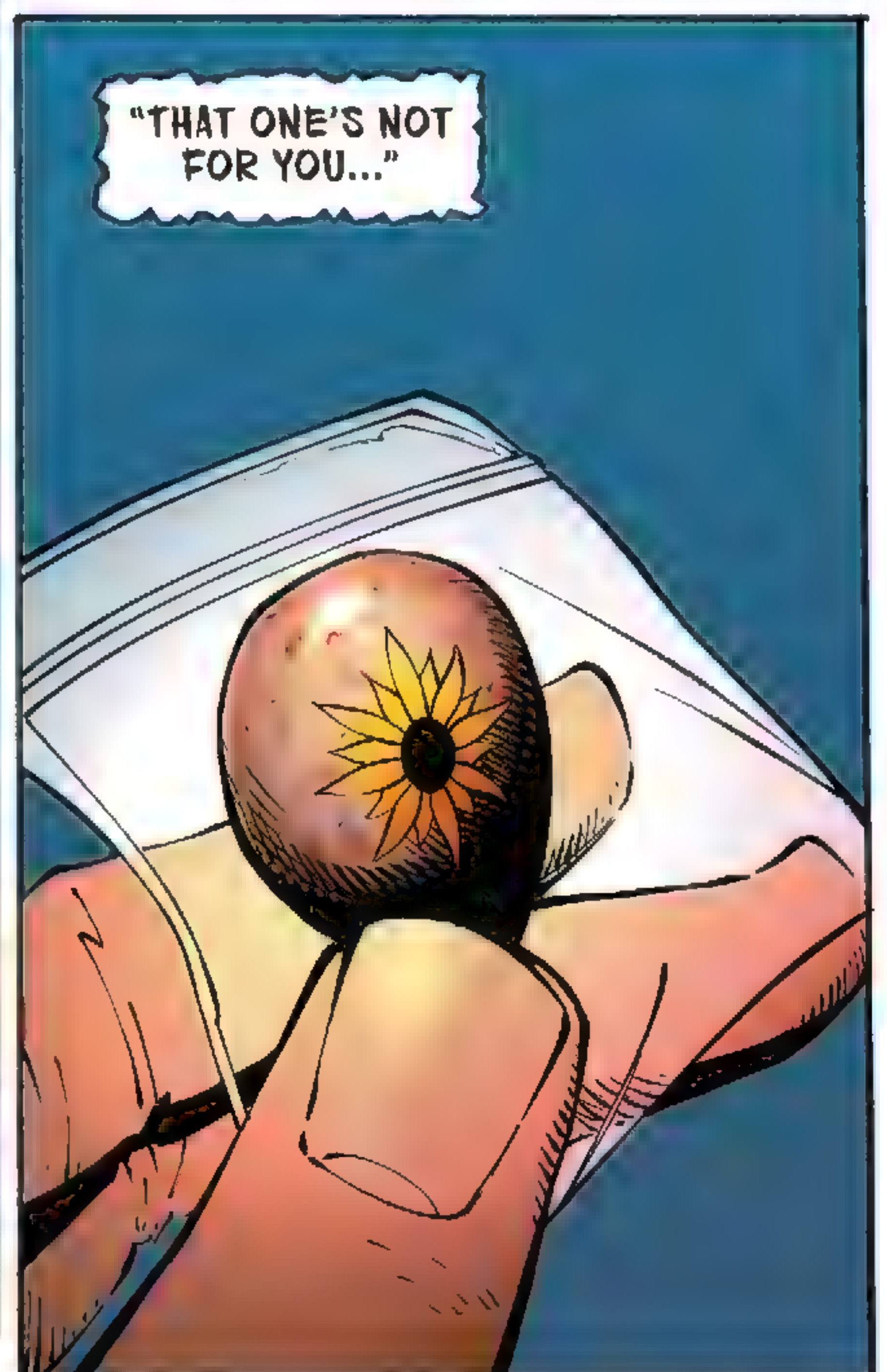
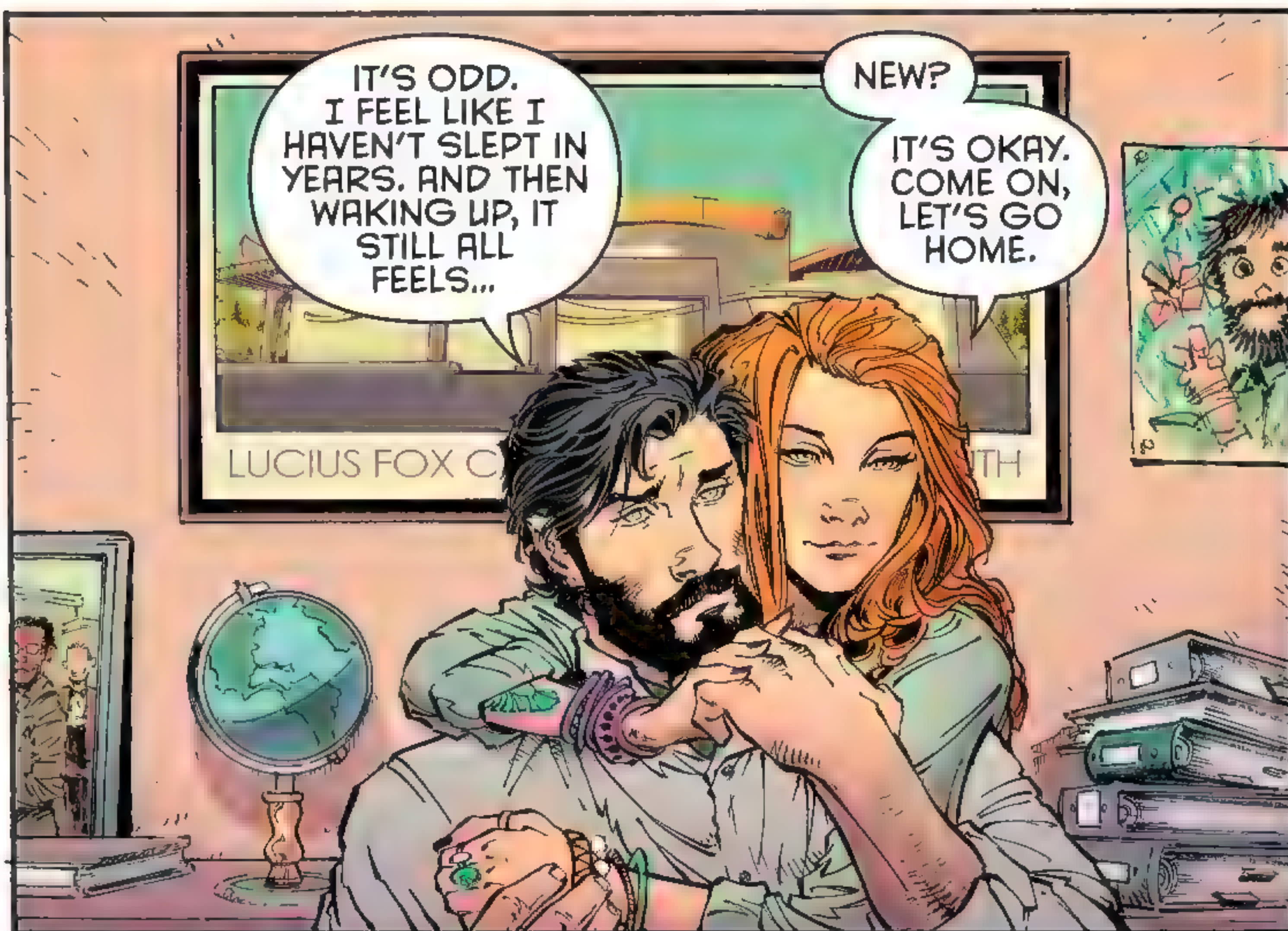
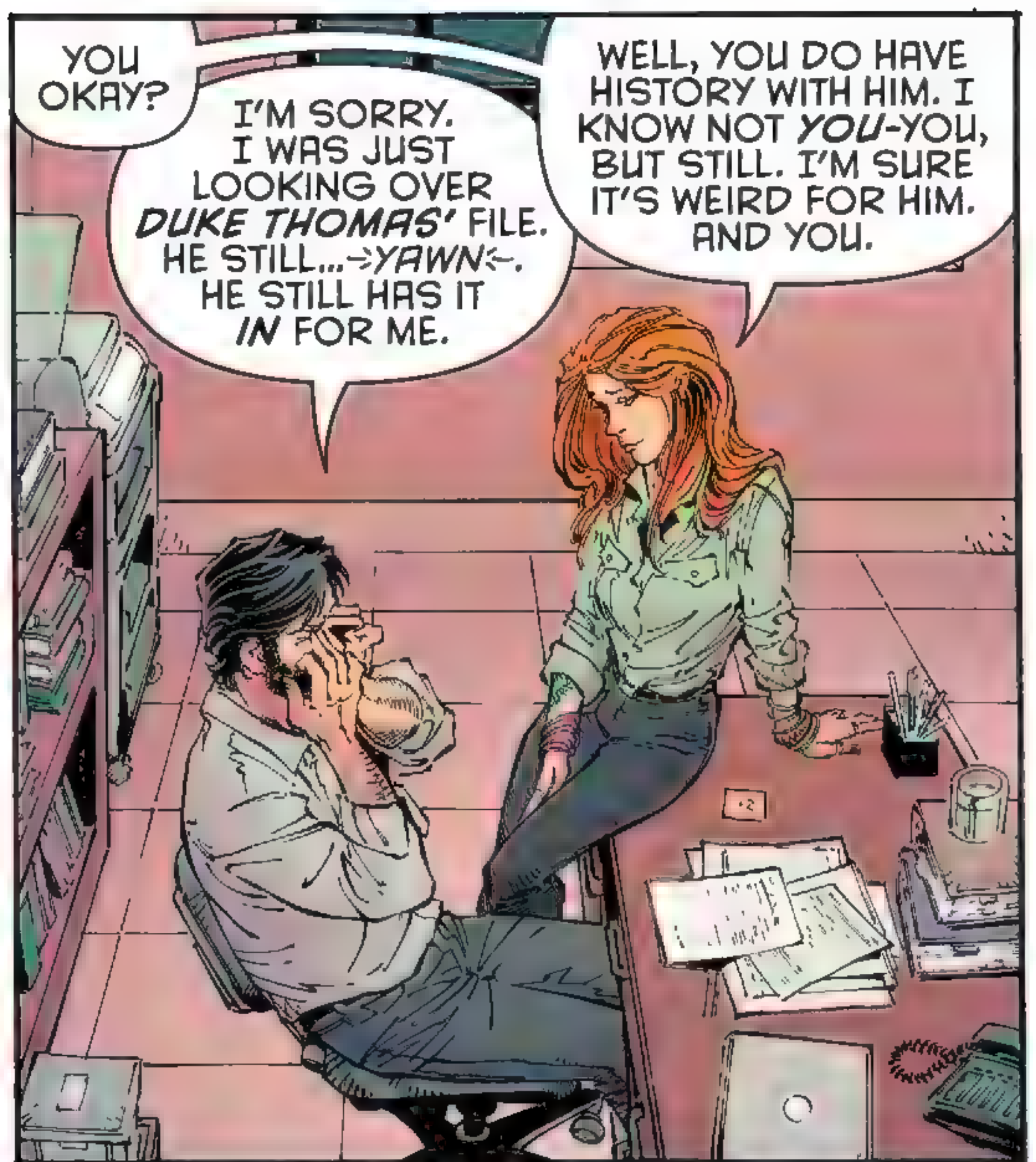


I'M
COMING IN,
I'M GOING
TO--

→Ugh!→

→Huff huff→
JULIA! JULIA,
COME IN!

"COME IN..."



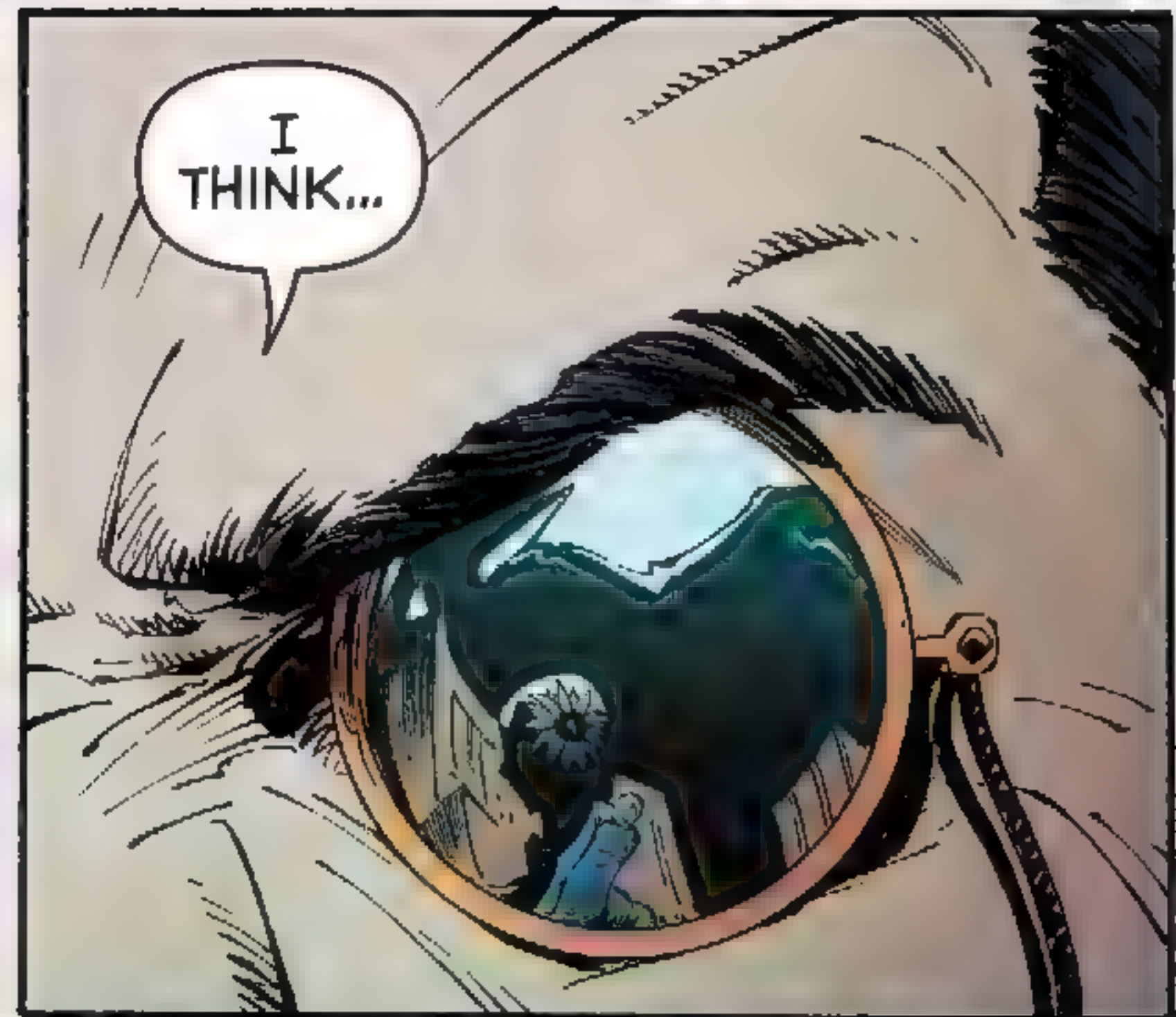


THIS ONE.
THIS ONE IS
YOURS.



IF YOU
SEWED IT IN,
IT'D COME
TO LIFE.

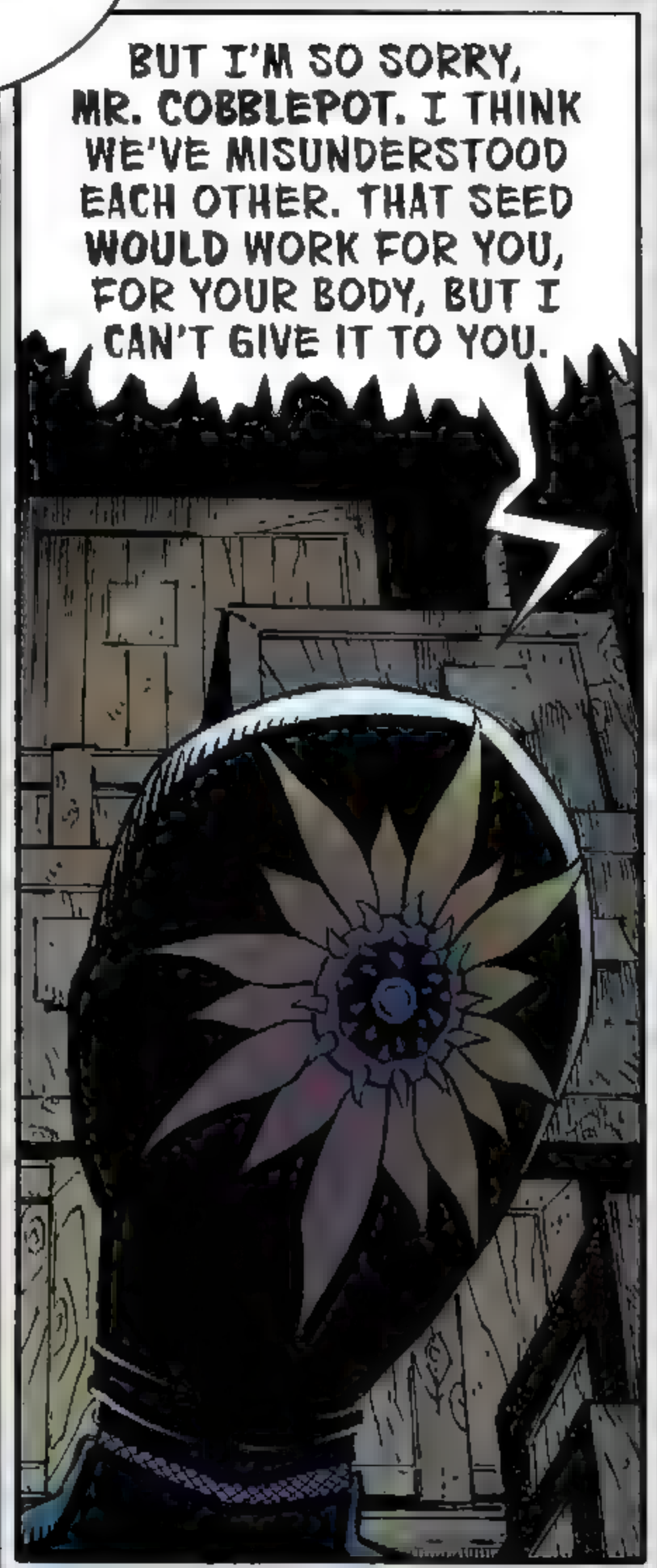
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?



I
THINK...



I NEVER NEEDED
POWERS TO *WIELD*
POWER HERE IN GOTHAM,
"MR. BLOOM," AND I'M NOT
SURE I NEED THEM NOW.
BUT...PEOPLE SEEM TO BE
BUYING WHAT YOU'RE
SELLING. SO I'M
INTERESTED.



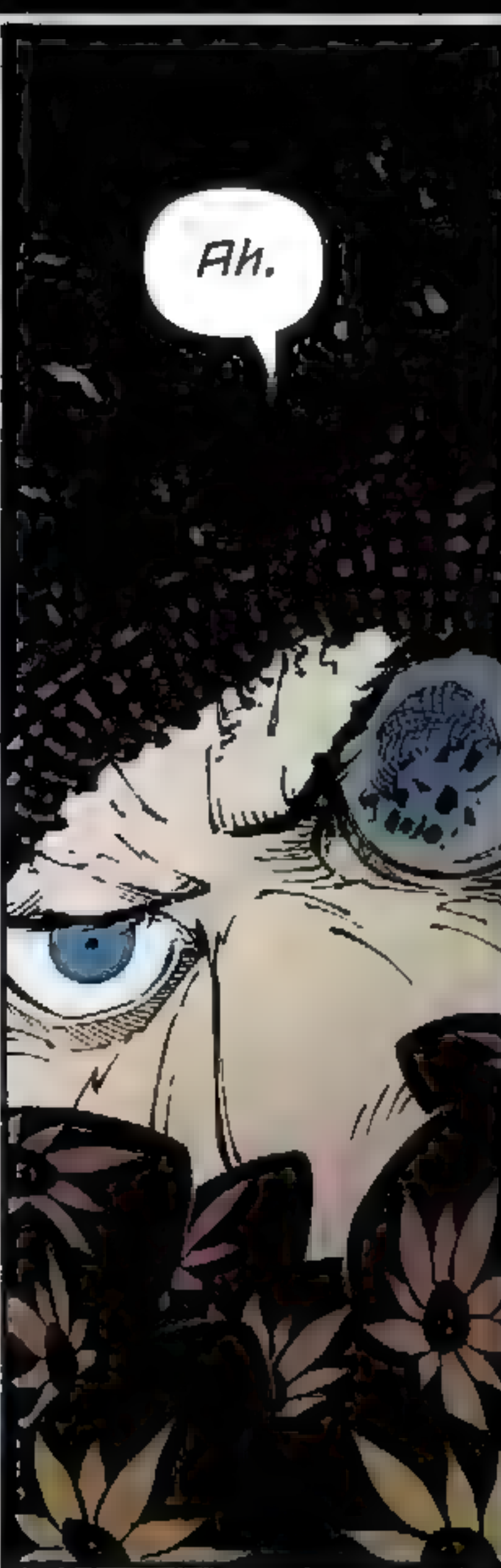
BUT I'M SO SORRY,
MR. COBBLEPOT. I THINK
WE'VE MISUNDERSTOOD
EACH OTHER. THAT SEED
WOULD WORK FOR YOU,
FOR YOUR BODY, BUT I
CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.



Heh. IS THAT
SO? AND WHY
NOT? YOU
DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH?



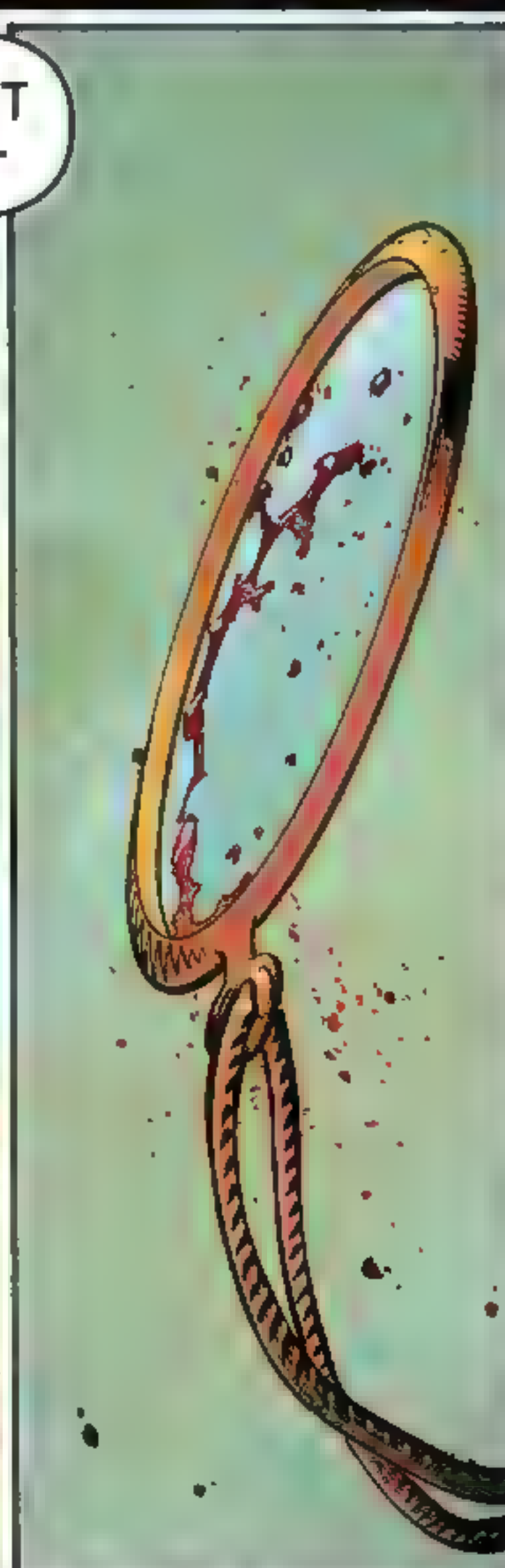
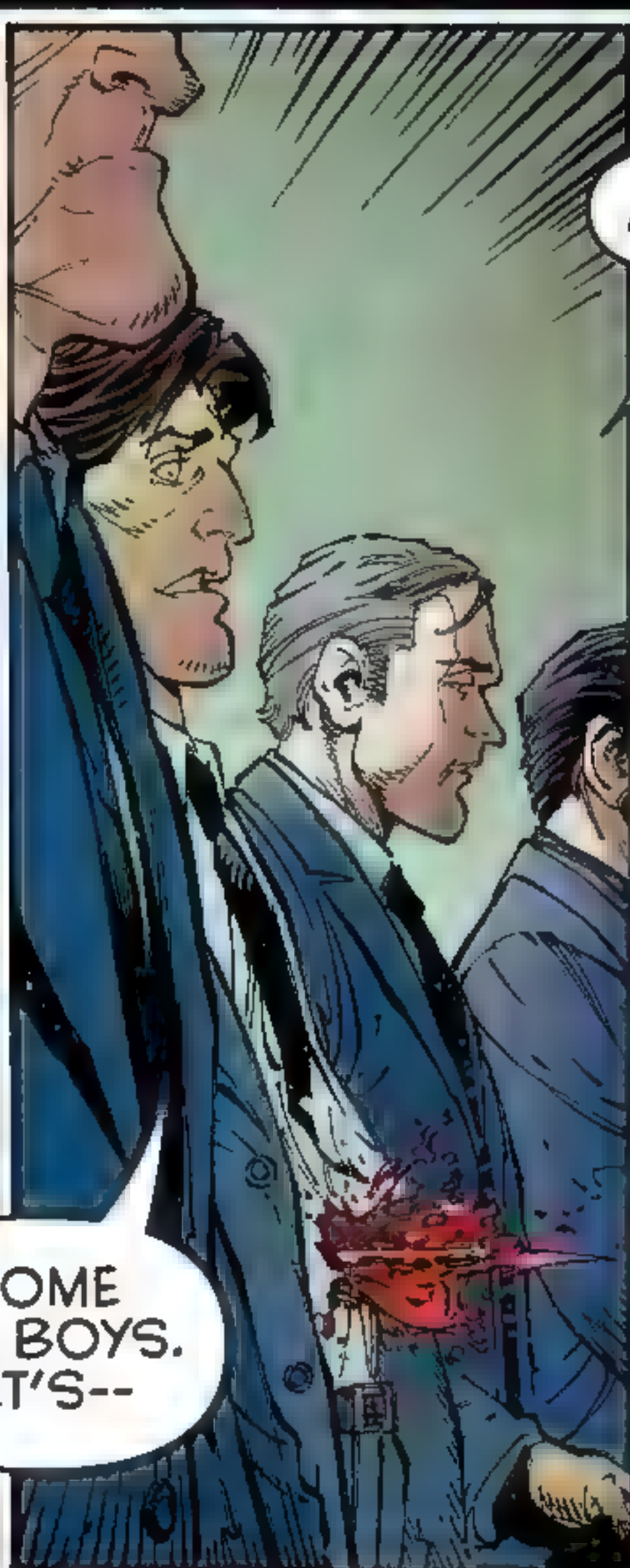
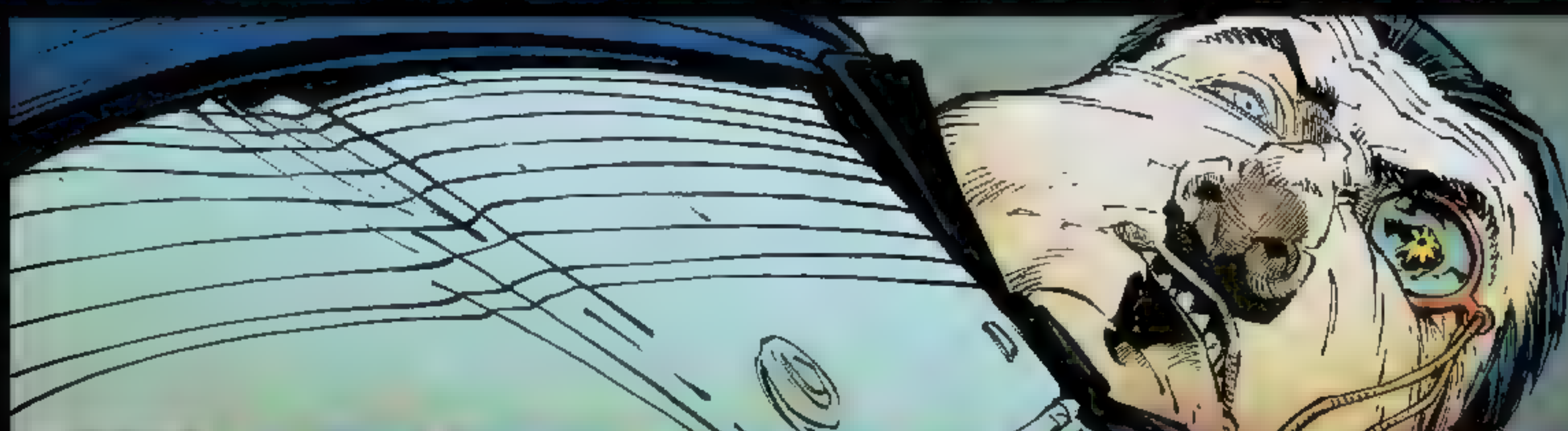
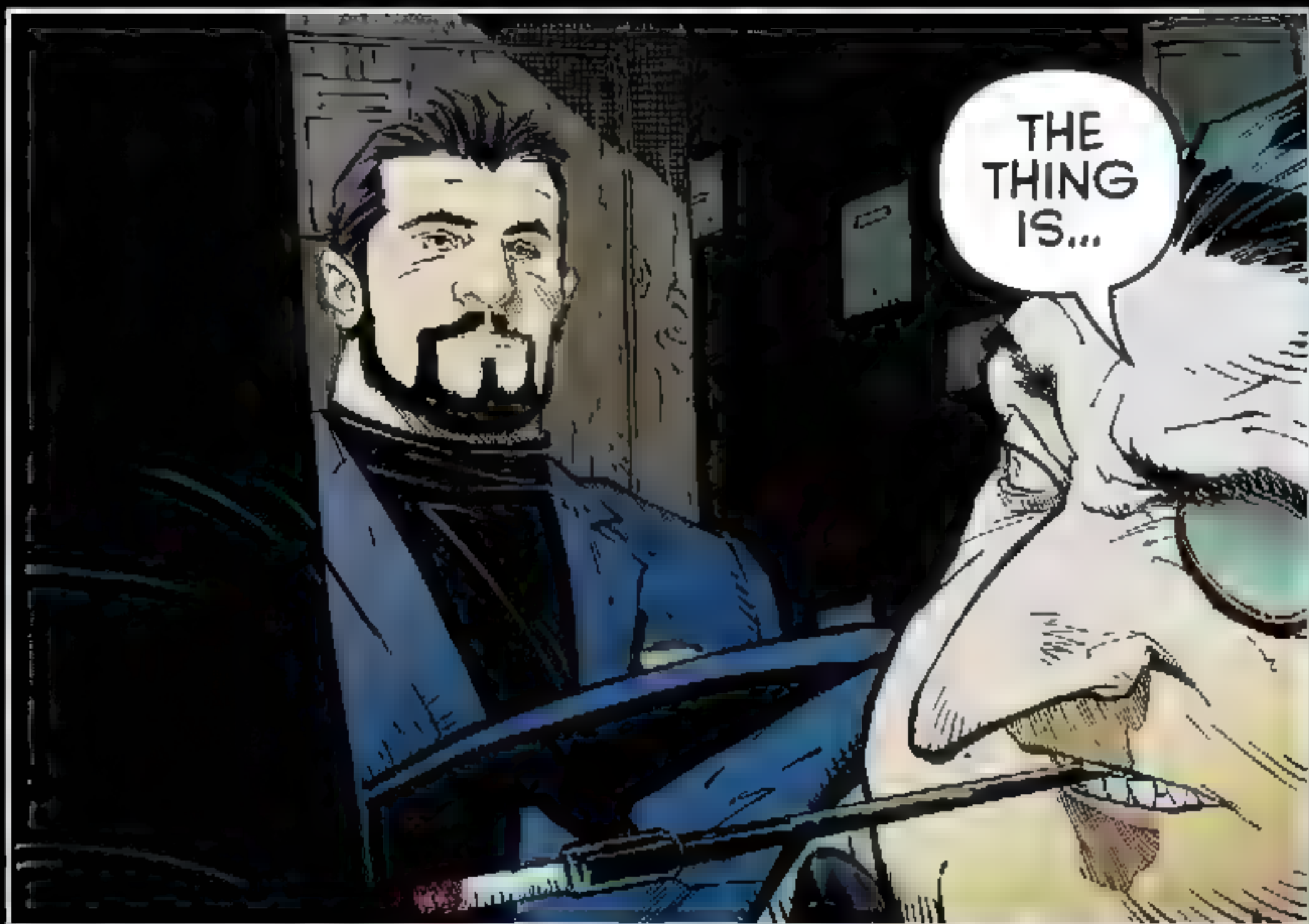
NO,
I DO. I HAVE TOO
MANY. IT'S
JUST...YOU'RE
NOT PART OF
THIS.



Ah.



WELL, I DO FIND
THIS ALL VERY CUTE, MR.
BLOOM. I'VE BEEN HEARING
ABOUT YOU FOR A BIT. THE
MAN WHO GIVES AWAY POWERS.
A WEAPONS DEALER WHO
MAKES NO DEALS. GROWING
SOMETHING. A *GARDEN*.
A BUSINESS.







Jack



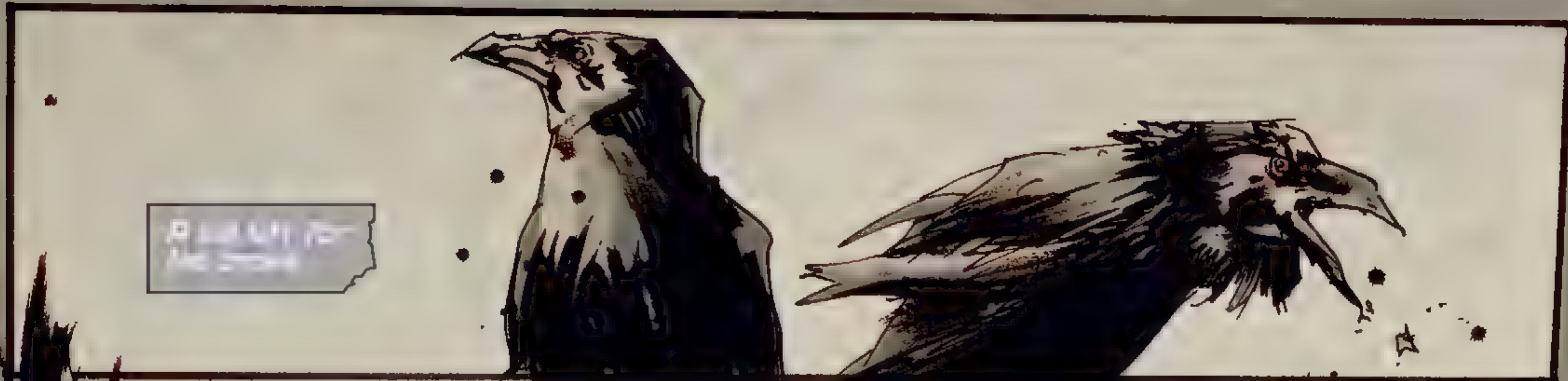
Jack

GOTHAM MARSHES. POST-ZERO YEAR.



THE BIRDS ARE THE ONLY
THINGS LEFT OF THE
CITY THAT WAS

A BIRD IS THE ONLY
THING LEFT OF THE
CITY

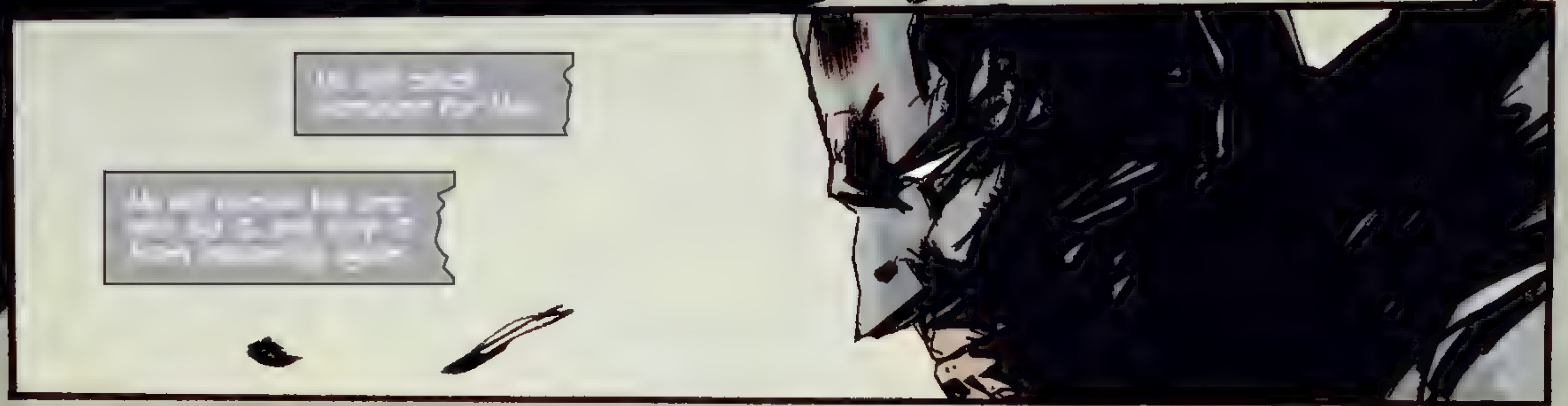


A BIRD IS THE ONLY
THING LEFT OF THE
CITY





LISTENING TO THE VOICES
OF THE DEAD
THROUGH THE DARK



THE ONLY OTHER
REASON FOR ME

THE ONLY OTHER
REASON FOR ME
THE ONLY OTHER
REASON FOR ME



I'M STILL
HOLDING ON
TO THIS
HOPE...



...THAT YOU
CALLED ME
OUT HERE TO
SHOW OFF THE
BAT-SWAMP-
BOAT.

WHAT
DO WE
HAVE?



PETER DUGGIO.
FIFTEEN YEARS
OLD. FROM THE
NARROWS.

THE
CORNER, MORE
ACCURATELY. SHOT
FOUR TIMES AND
DUMPED HERE.

WHAT'S THE
I.D.? HE HAVE
A WALLET?

I CAN
SEE HIS
I.D.

"YOU'RE
UPGRADING.

"YOU SAID HE'S FROM THE
CORNER. THE *FOUR FIVES*
HAVE BEEN AGGRESSIVE
THERE LATELY. FEUDING WITH
THE BIRD. COULD BE THEM."

I'D
AGREE, IF
THE *SHOTS*
HAD KILLED
HIM.

BUT I SCANNED HIM.
HE DIED FROM A *FALL*.
DROPPED HERE. FROM
ABOUT A THOUSAND
FEET UP.

...

KANE MUNICIPAL
AIRPORT IS ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF TOWN,
AND ALL POLICE BLIMPS
WERE DECOMMISSIONED
WEEKS AGO. IT'S
RAINCLOUDS AND
GEESE.

NO ONE
FLIES OVER
THIS AREA.

SOMEONE
DID.

ALL RIGHT.
I'LL TRACK THE
SHOTS. YOU
HAVE LEADS?

BATMAN?

IN THE past few months, there
has been a lot of talk about the
city's security. Some people think
the city is too big to protect, and
in some cases, it's true. But I
think it's a mistake to think that
the city is too big to protect. And
that's the way it should be.

Each year, a handful of the city's
best and brightest are selected
to work for the city. They are
the ones who are the most
talented, the most dedicated, the
most hardworking. And they are
the ones who are the most
important. And they are the ones
who are the most important.

~~MR. FREEZE~~
~~KILLER BAT~~
~~CLAYFACE~~

PENGUIN

Now, if you want to know
the truth, the city is not
too big to protect. It's just
too big to protect. And that's
the way it should be.





STOP IT! STOP IT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LUNATIC?!



When the machine first started moving, it was just a small, slow motion. But then it started to move faster and faster, until it was a blur of motion. The machine was moving so fast that it was impossible to see what it was doing.

They are going to kill me. They are going to kill me. They are going to kill me.

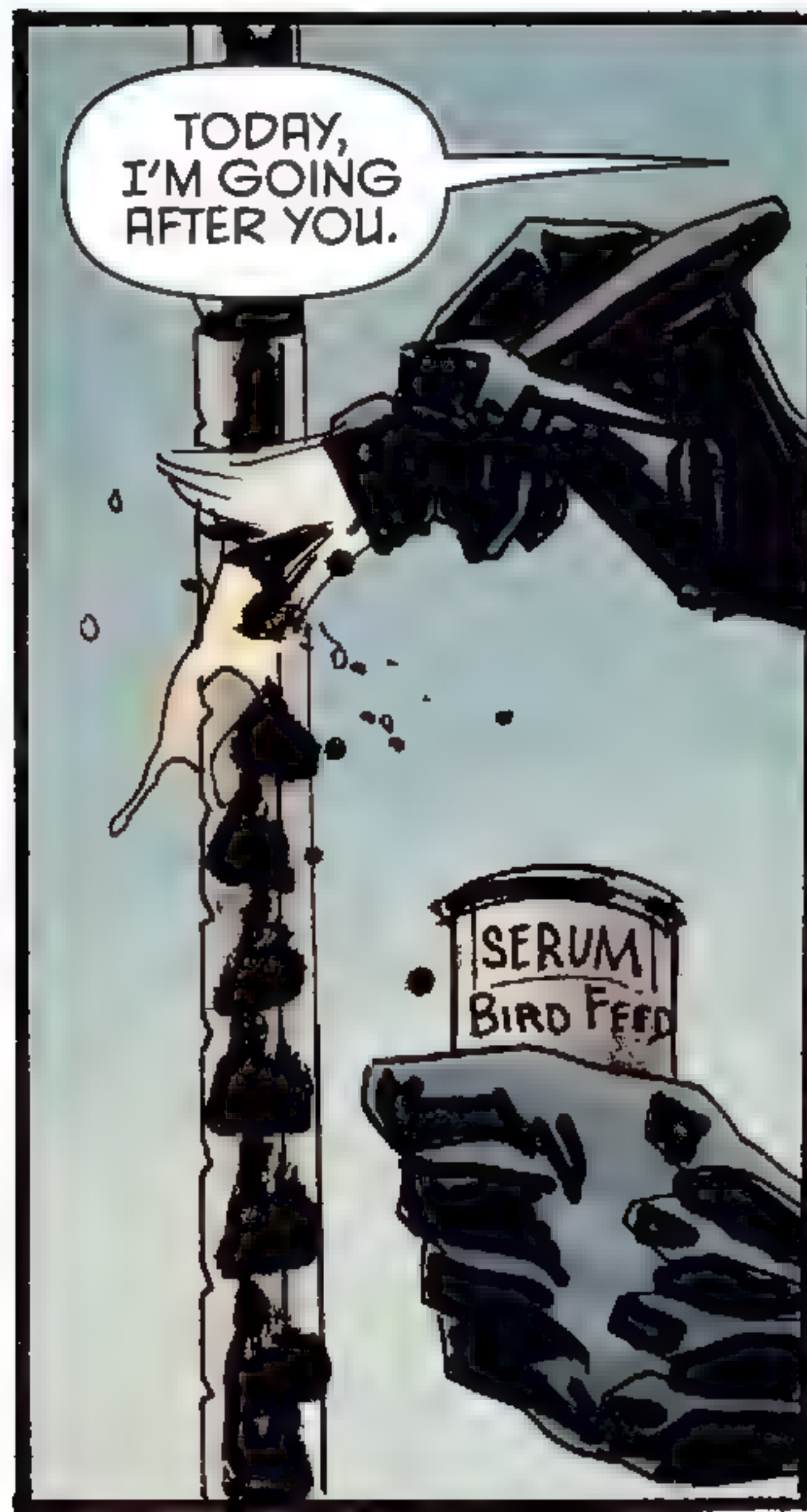


PETER WHO-GIO?!! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE AND GO AFTER GOTHAM'S REAL CRIMINALS?!!

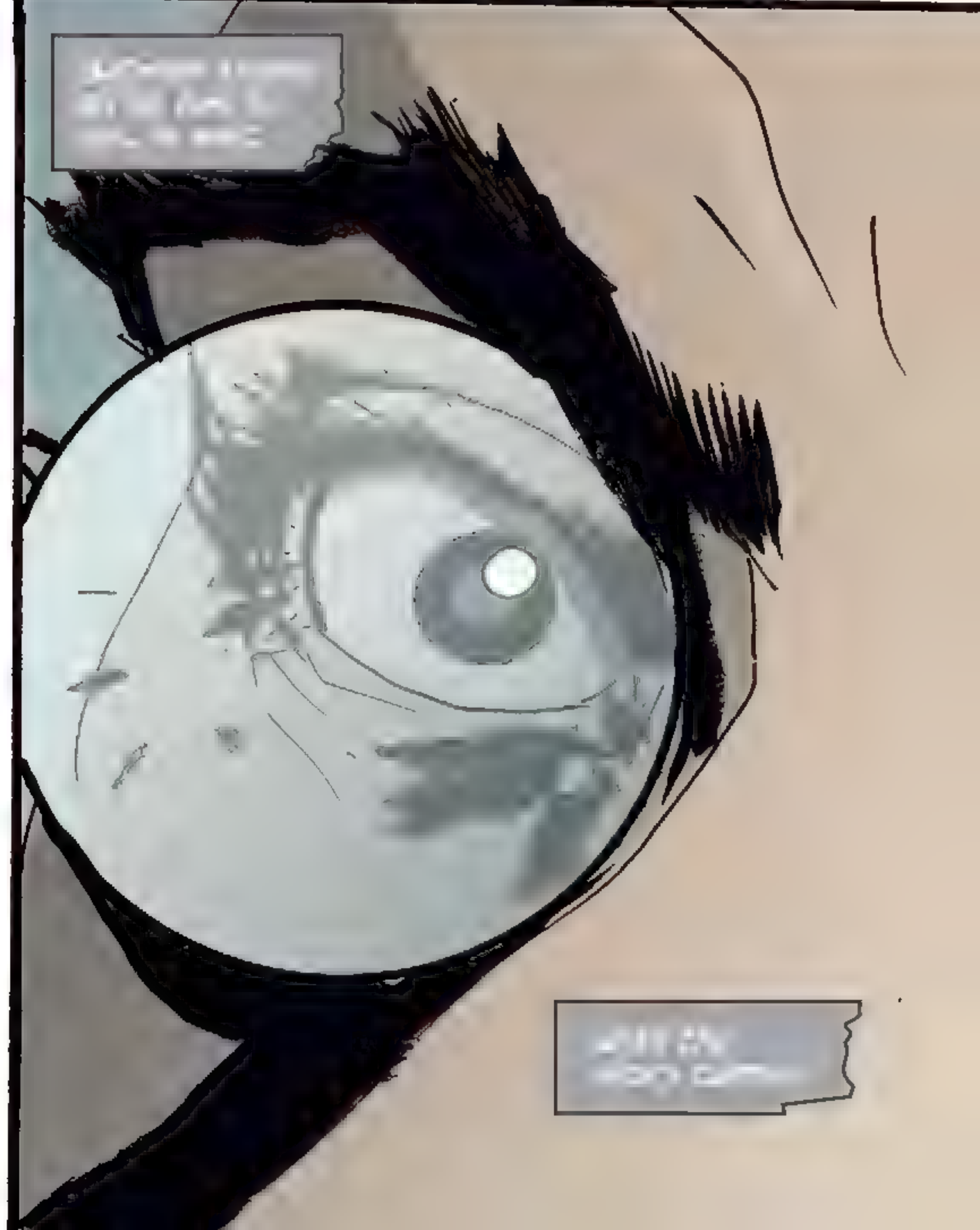
It doesn't seem like the machine is going to stop. It's still moving, and it's still moving faster and faster. The machine is moving so fast that it's impossible to see what it's doing.

But the Gazette has uncovered substantial links between well-known, legitimate lobbyists and Gotham's own underworld. During a year-long investigation, the Gazette found that at least three prominent advocacy groups regularly accepted donations from active criminal organizations looking to influence the city legislature. One source, speaking anonymously, explained, "Regulation is a line where a line sits. It moves according to who pays for it to move. The real criminals are the men and women who paint the line."

But the machine is still moving. It's still moving faster and faster. The machine is moving so fast that it's impossible to see what it's doing.



TODAY, I'M GOING AFTER YOU.



When the machine first started moving, it was just a small, slow motion. But then it started to move faster and faster, until it was a blur of motion. The machine was moving so fast that it was impossible to see what it was doing.

But the machine is still moving. It's still moving faster and faster. The machine is moving so fast that it's impossible to see what it's doing.



And the city
won't let us
do anything.

NOT A CHANCE.
WE'RE GOING TO
NEED AT LEAST A MILE
MORE. LOOPED, WITH
TRIPLE THE SURFACE
AREA.

WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT FREEZING A
GOOD QUARTER MILE OF
THE GOTHAM RIVER, AND
THAT'S JUST THE DAMN
GROUND FLOOR.

MR.
COBBLEPOT?



WHAT THE
HELL DO YOU
WANT FROM
ME,...?



PETER.

PETER
DUGGIO.

I WANT TO DO
BUSINESS.



HEH. AND
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
BUSINESS,
KID?

I KNOW I HAVE
SOMETHING TO
OFFER, AND YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
I WANT. SO WE
SHOULD DO
BUSINESS.



Turning the PWA into a
Society of smart muck.
But saying it in the Gotham
Style. It was one of the only
things that made me
feel like I was in a
real, real world. And it was
the only thing that
made me feel like I was
in a real, real world.



But when the first year ended,
Peter's father was gone. And when
he returned, the first thing he
did was to tell me that he was
in the hospital. And he was
telling me that he was
in the hospital.

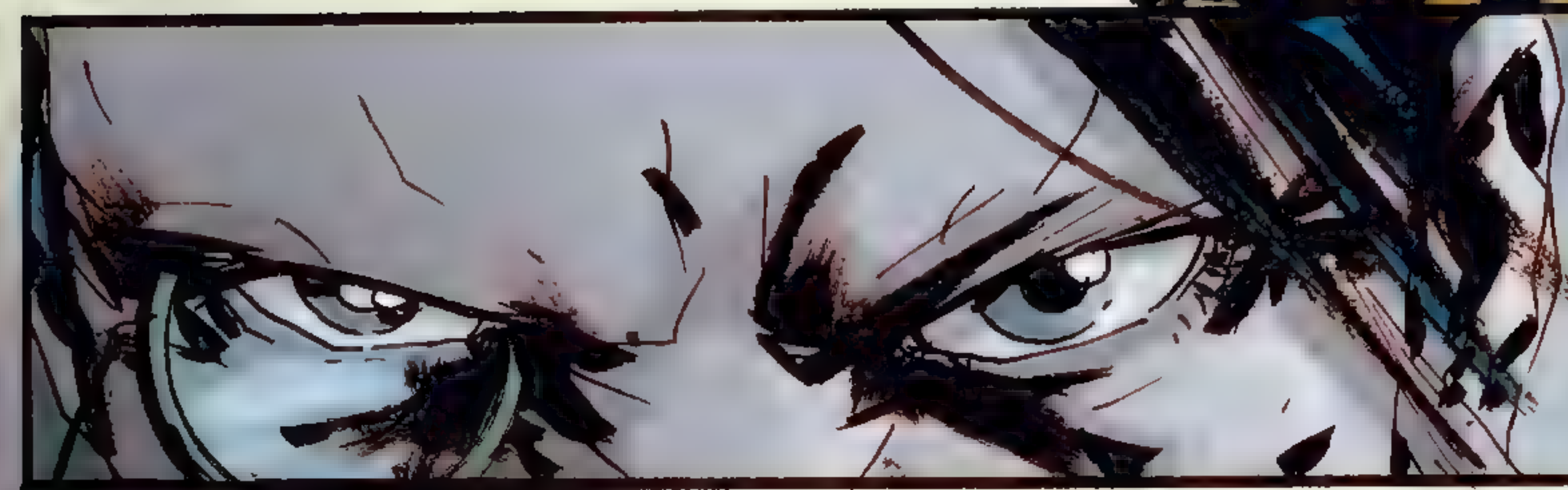
Remember the first time
you saw the PWA? It was
the first time you saw
the PWA.



THE GROCERY STORE WAS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE BOY COULD GET A JOB. HE HAD BEEN WORKING THERE FOR YEARS.

THE BOY HAD BEEN WORKING THERE FOR YEARS. HE HAD BEEN WORKING THERE FOR YEARS. HE HAD BEEN WORKING THERE FOR YEARS.

YOU CAN SELL THINGS THROUGH THE PLACE. I KNOW HOW TO RUN IT. I'VE BEEN RUNNING IT FOR YEARS. IT COULD WORK OUT FOR ALL OF US.



IT WASN'T THE PLACE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DID TO THE BOY? I DROPPED HIM FROM ONE OF MY DAMN BLIMPS.

SO YOU TOOK THE PLACE. YOU TOOK IT TO SPITE THE ONE GANG THAT *WON'T* WORK WITH YOU, AND YOU *KILLED* THE BOY, SHOT HIM AND DROPPED THE BODY FROM ONE OF YOUR DAMN BLIMPS.



NO, YOU MANIAC.

KID WAS ALIVE AND KICKING LAST TIME I SAW HIM.

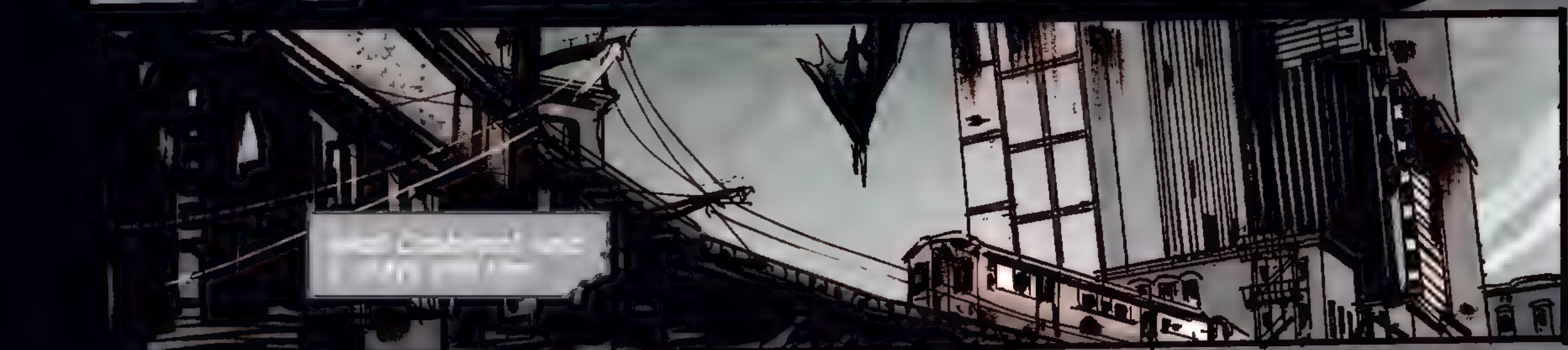
YOU... REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CITY, DO YOU?





There was a large tent used for
part of the day. Here, several structures
were used for the Museum visitors and then
moved to the ground. It was used for
other things in the past.

Many more people were in the
tents and the house. It was used for
some things from Gotham City.
They were in the tent and the tent.



There was a large tent used for
part of the day. Here, several structures
were used for the Museum visitors and then
moved to the ground. It was used for
other things in the past.

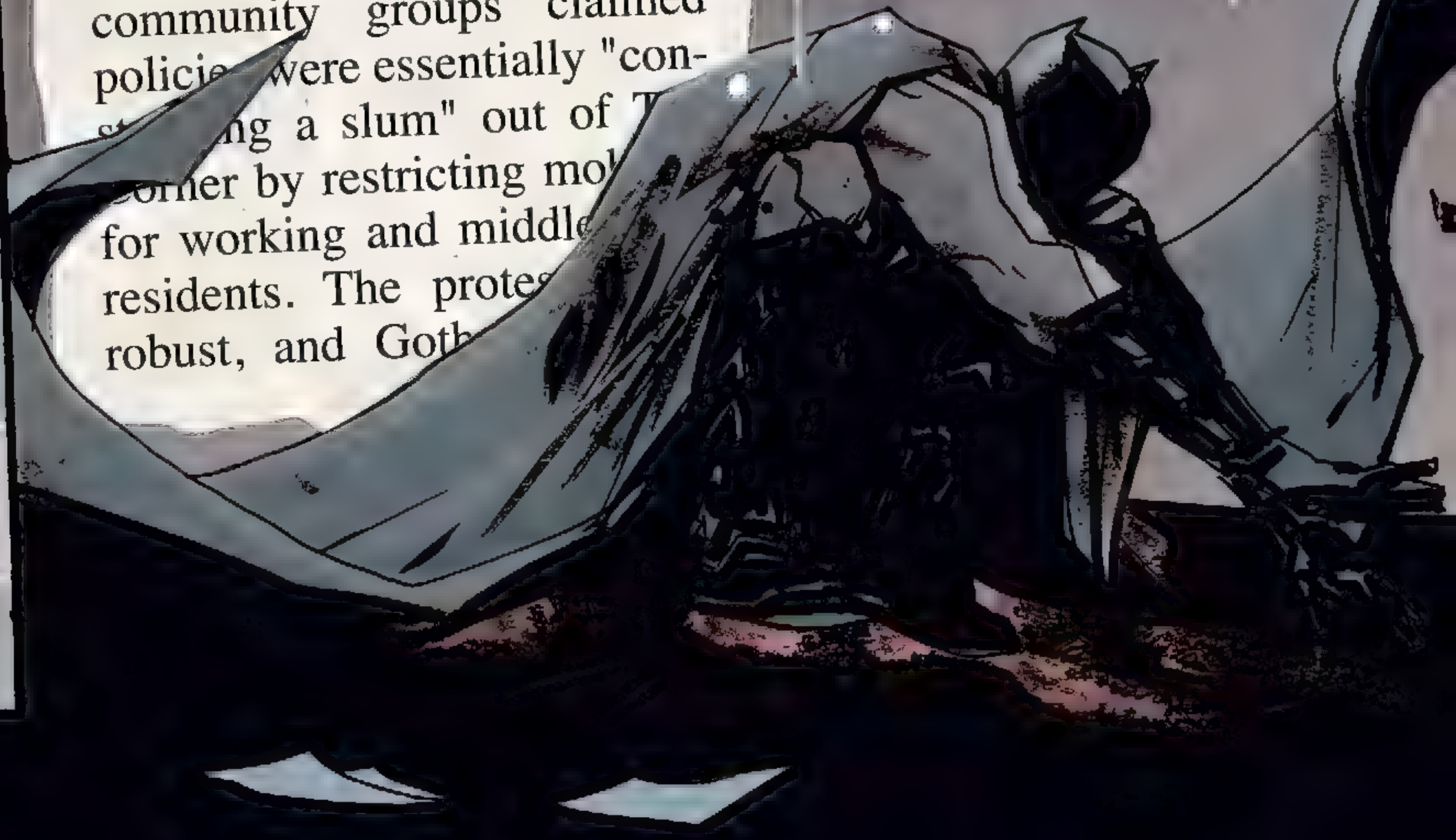


There was a large tent used for
part of the day. Here, several structures
were used for the Museum visitors and then
moved to the ground. It was used for
other things in the past.

reached a peak
of 1963 during
demonstrations
protesting segregation policies
by multiple Gotham
cities similar to
other subur-
ban areas like Levittown, NY,
which barred blacks from
renting homes. Protestors and
community groups claimed
policies were essentially "con-
verting a slum" out of T
corner by restricting mo
for working and middle
residents. The protes
robust, and Goth

employed fire hoses, dogs
and what was called "mea-
sured violence" to end the
demonstrations.

There was a large tent used for
part of the day. Here, several structures
were used for the Museum visitors and then
moved to the ground. It was used for
other things in the past.





The doctor were
tutched the night before
that they were...

Out
They
want
the
about



He was the first to see
the end of the world.



But the way, Peter went
to the Penguin for help.
To keep the story and
from the first time.

They the Penguin took a
and turned a man and
and he to the young
I never offered.

Letting the man go
keeping the man for
a target on his back.







ENOUGH.

TANO CANACCO. HEAD OF THE FOUR FIVES.

WHO YOU
THINK YOU
ARE?

I'M--

CLIC

--A LONG
WAY FROM
HOME.

WHY?

CLIC

PETER
DUGGIO.

THIS
IS HIS
PLACE.

WAS.
PETER OFFERED
IT TO COBBLEPOT.
COBBLEPOT OFFERED IT
TO YOU. YOU TORCHED
IT. AND DROPPED PETER
FROM A HELICOPTER
ALONG PENGUIN'S
MIGRATION ROUTE
TO PROVE A
POINT.



DAMN. I'M
SMOOTH.

SO YOU
CONFESS.



WHY THE *HELL*
YOU THINK I GOT
ACCESS TO A
HELICOPTER?!!



"I MEAN
SERIOUSLY..."

"YEAH, THIS JOINT
WAS A GIFT. SO WHAT,
AN' WHO THE HELL
CARES? *YOU?* BULL.



"THIS IS
NOWHERE TO
NOBODY."



TANO,
THE LITTLE
BROTHA WOULD
LIKE SOME
WORDS...



"NEVER SAW THE
LITTLE BROTHA LIKE
THAT, ALL AMPED'N..."

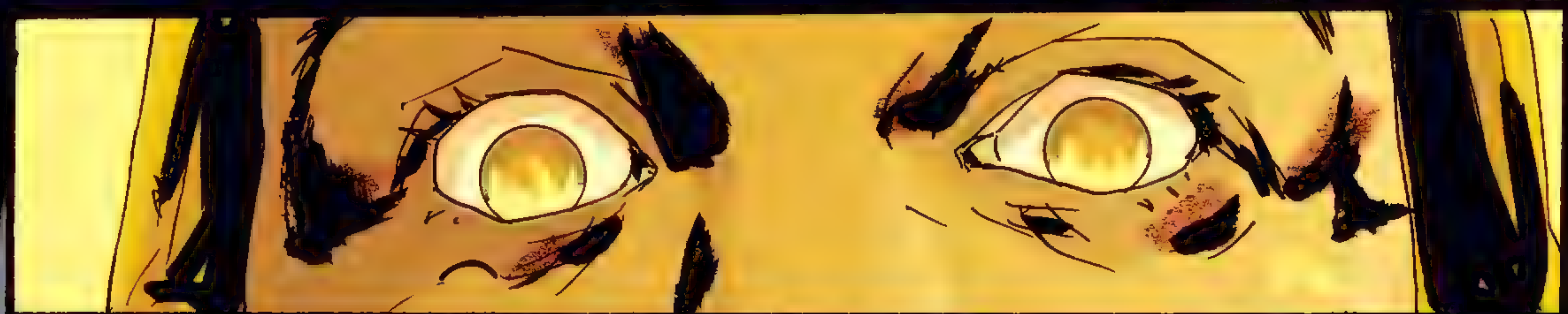
"RAGE."



"WOULD HAVE,
MIGHT A OFFERED
HIM A SPOT IN
THE CREW..."

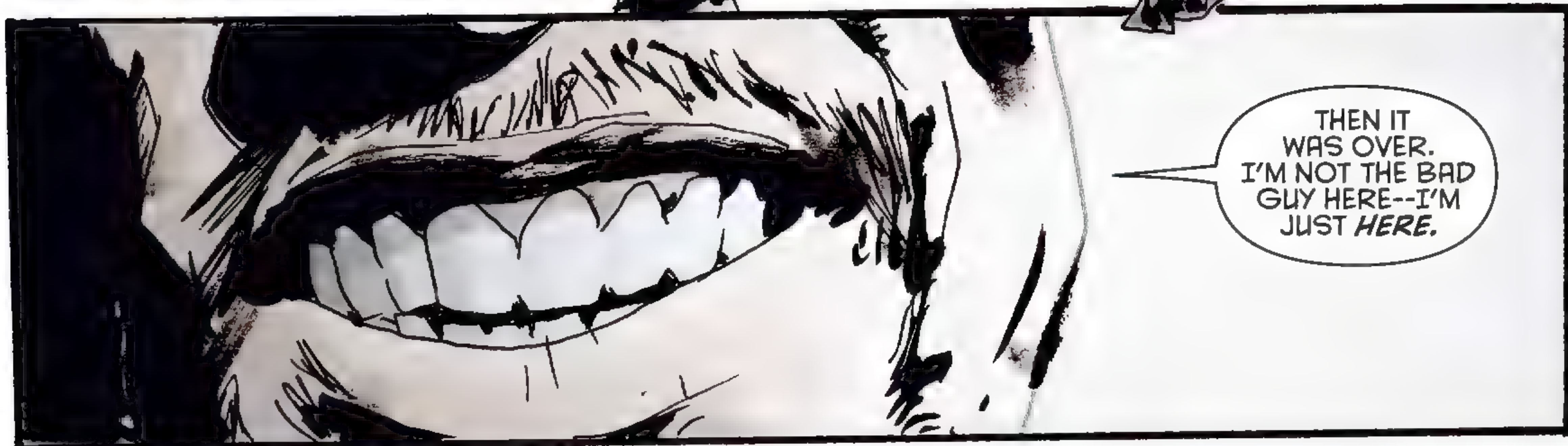


"KID WAS
ON FIRE."



THEN?

ALWAYS
THEN,
RIGHT?



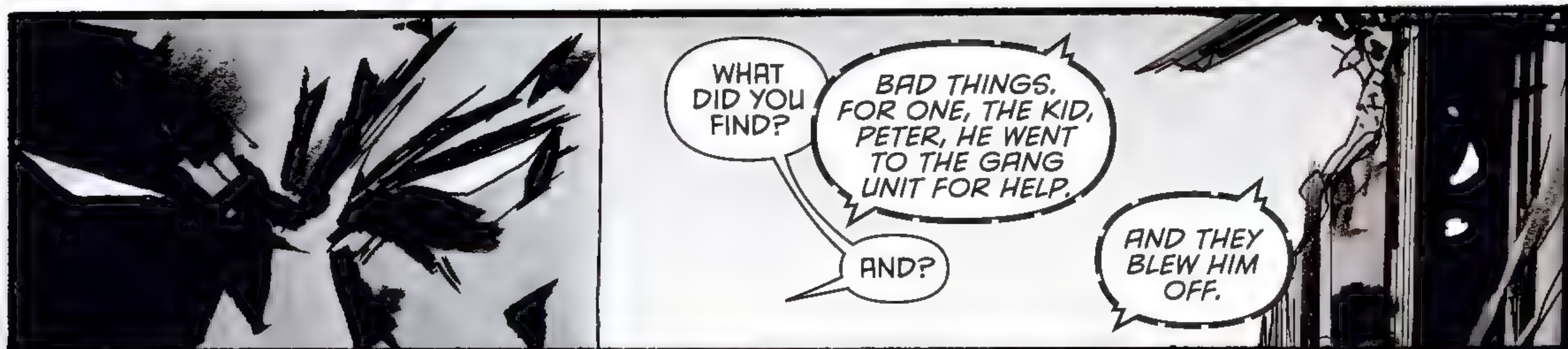
THEN IT
WAS OVER.
I'M NOT THE BAD
GUY HERE--I'M
JUST *HERE*.

Let's go back to the beginning
of the story.

...Still, the Four Fives, originally the Green Line Fours, 1971 in Gotham's Corner district ...named for 4th street and 5th avenue, the intersection ...people today would be surprised to know the Four Fives originated as a neighborhood radicalized watch group. With the Corner less ...also provided ... wasn't until the 1980's and the infusion of cheap, hard drugs that the group became known as a "gang." In

Comic book world, the Four Fives
are a very real threat.

Some of it matters in this
world. But if it's
about to let them
be all over.



WHAT
DID YOU
FIND?

BAD THINGS.
FOR ONE, THE KID,
PETER, HE WENT
TO THE GANG
UNIT FOR HELP.

AND?

AND THEY
BLEW HIM
OFF.

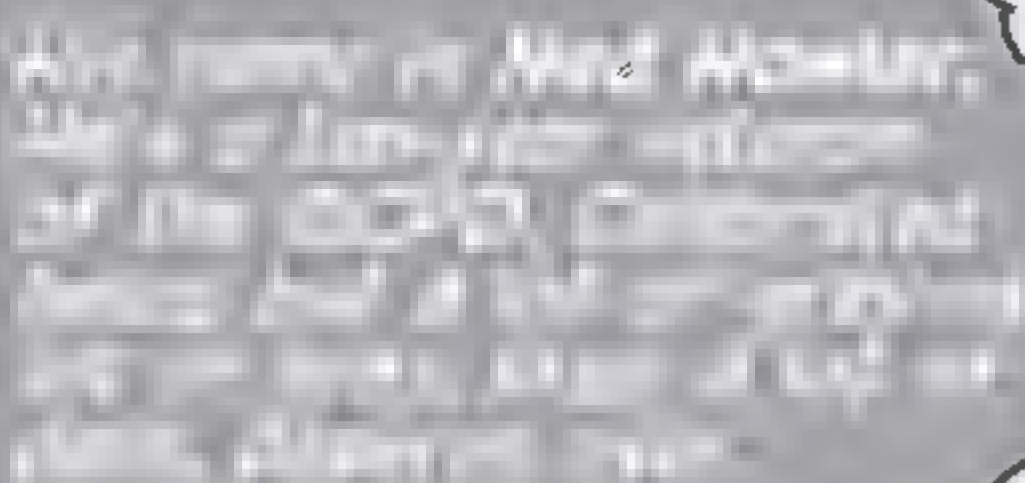
AND?

AND I GOT
A NAME ON
THE BULLETS.
NOTHING
GOOD.





CUT ME OFF...
AFTER EVERYTHING.
I KNOW HOW THIS
PLACE WORKS. IT'S
CHANGING?
NO IT'S NOT.
IT'S *NOT*.



I WAS
JUST DOING MY
JOB. I GOT A CALL
ABOUT A **GANG**
FIGHT. YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

The following pages have been
 printed by the printer of the
 Government of the State of New York
 at Albany, N. Y.

Continued

the NAACP reported that out of 45 officer-involved shootings in the city in the last two years, 37 of those shots were black. None were white. One-third of the shots resulted in fatalities. And weapons were *not* found in 40

percent of cases, the NAACP found, no one was charged,

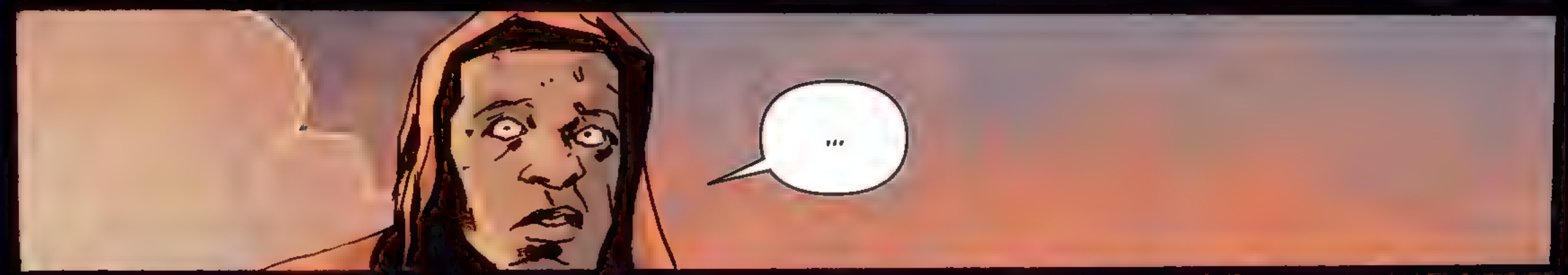
Phil is always busy, he runs about 400 miles every week, 200 miles from home and he does a lot of work in the corner in the last 10 years. From 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2

CONFIDENTIAL



YOU! STOP
RIGHT *THERE!*
LIE DOWN,
NOW!

*Too much for today especially, because here,
now, Batman is just out to get the story, to
catch the one who put Peter down.*

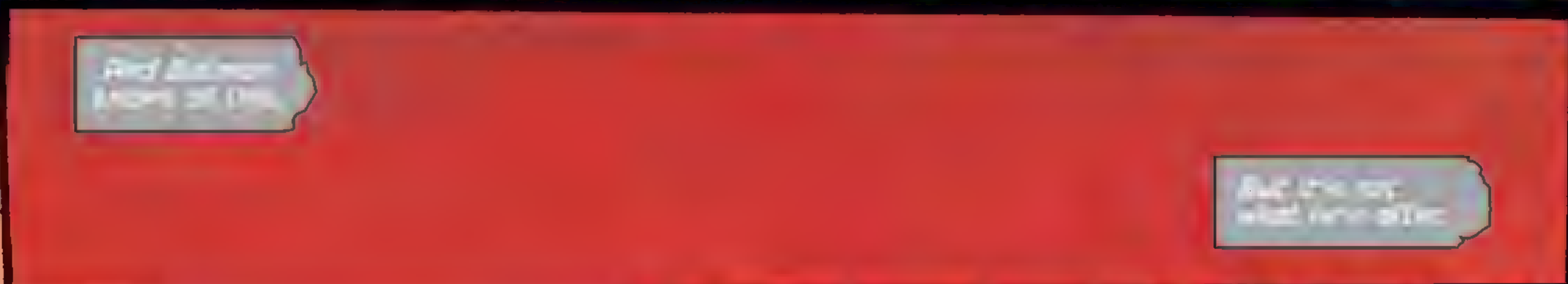


...



I SAID LIE
DOWN!

*And when it was time to go,
he'd gone about the perimeter
of the crime scene, and that
was it. He'd been told to
look for the man who put
Peter down.*



*And when it was time to go,
he'd gone about the perimeter
of the crime scene, and that
was it. He'd been told to
look for the man who put
Peter down.*

*And when it was time to go,
he'd gone about the perimeter
of the crime scene, and that
was it. He'd been told to
look for the man who put
Peter down.*

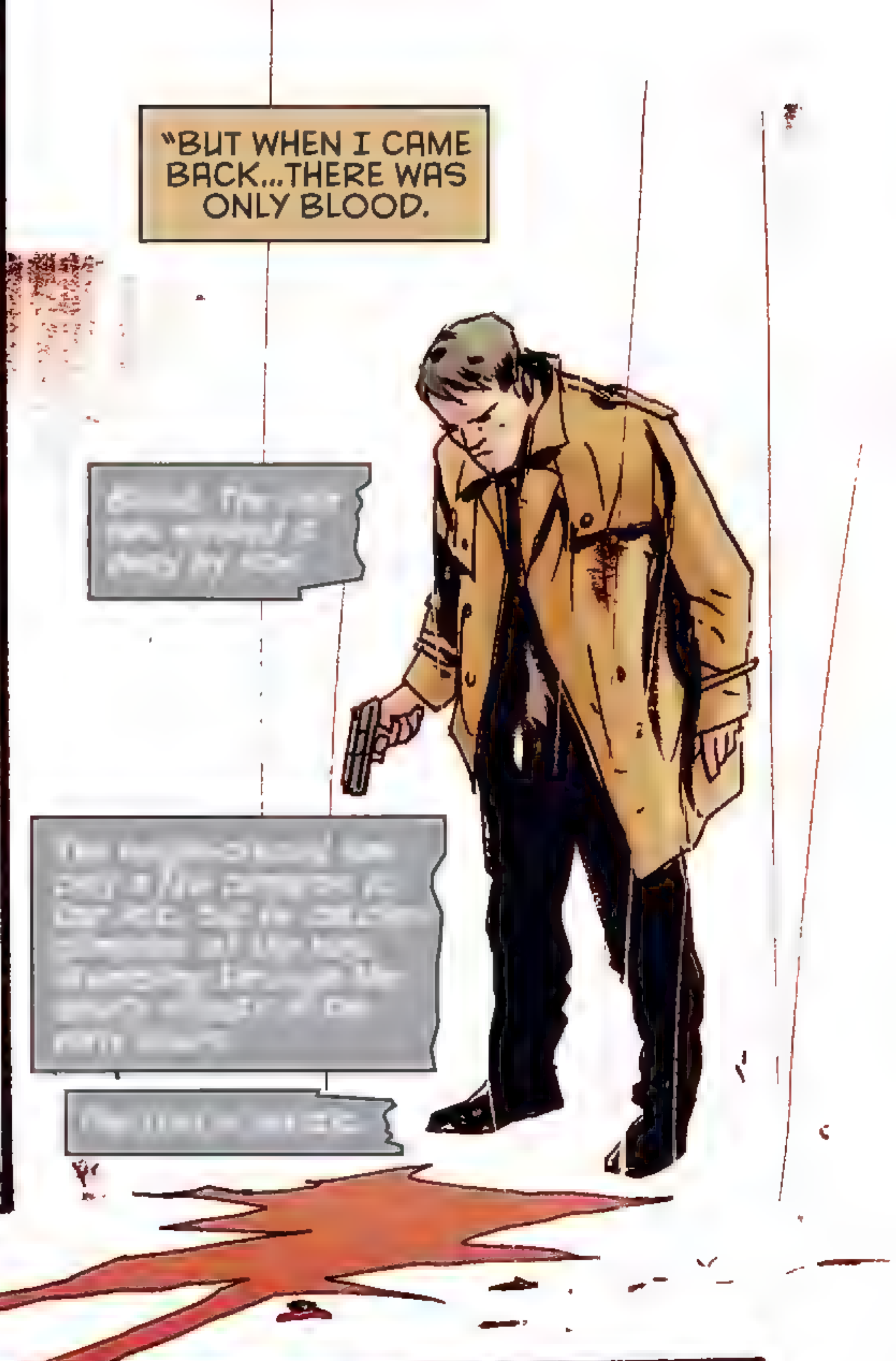




ENOUGH.
THE BOY.
WHAT DID
YOU DO
WITH HIM?



WHAT?
NOTHING...I...
I THOUGHT I
KILLED HIM.



"BUT WHEN I CAME
BACK...THERE WAS
ONLY BLOOD.

David Thomas
was killed 2
days before

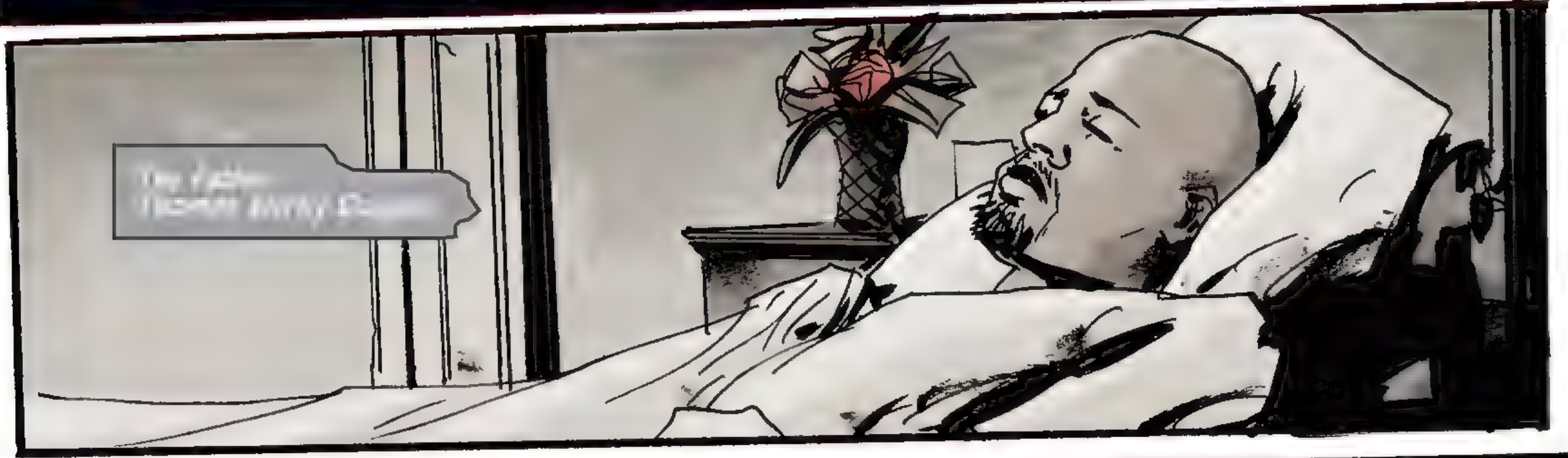
The hospital had
only 3 days before
David was to be
released. The
hospital was
the only place
where he was

The hospital was



The old pattern of
the new heart
was a sign of a new

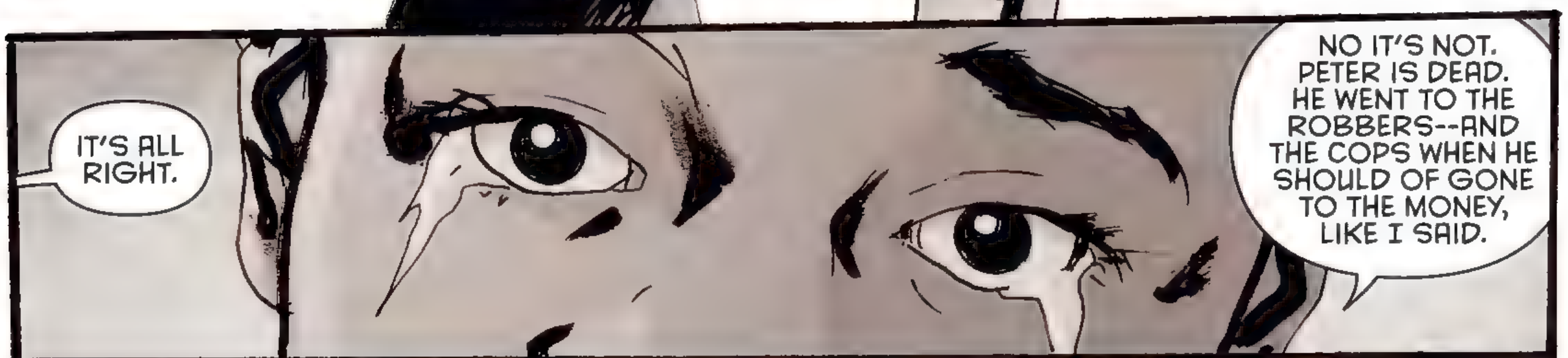
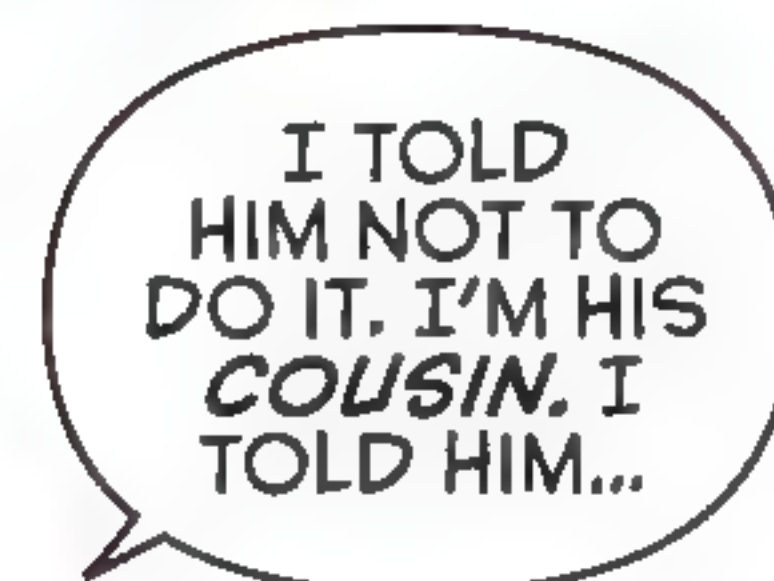
...a new heart
was a sign of a
new heart



The father
Thomas was
dying

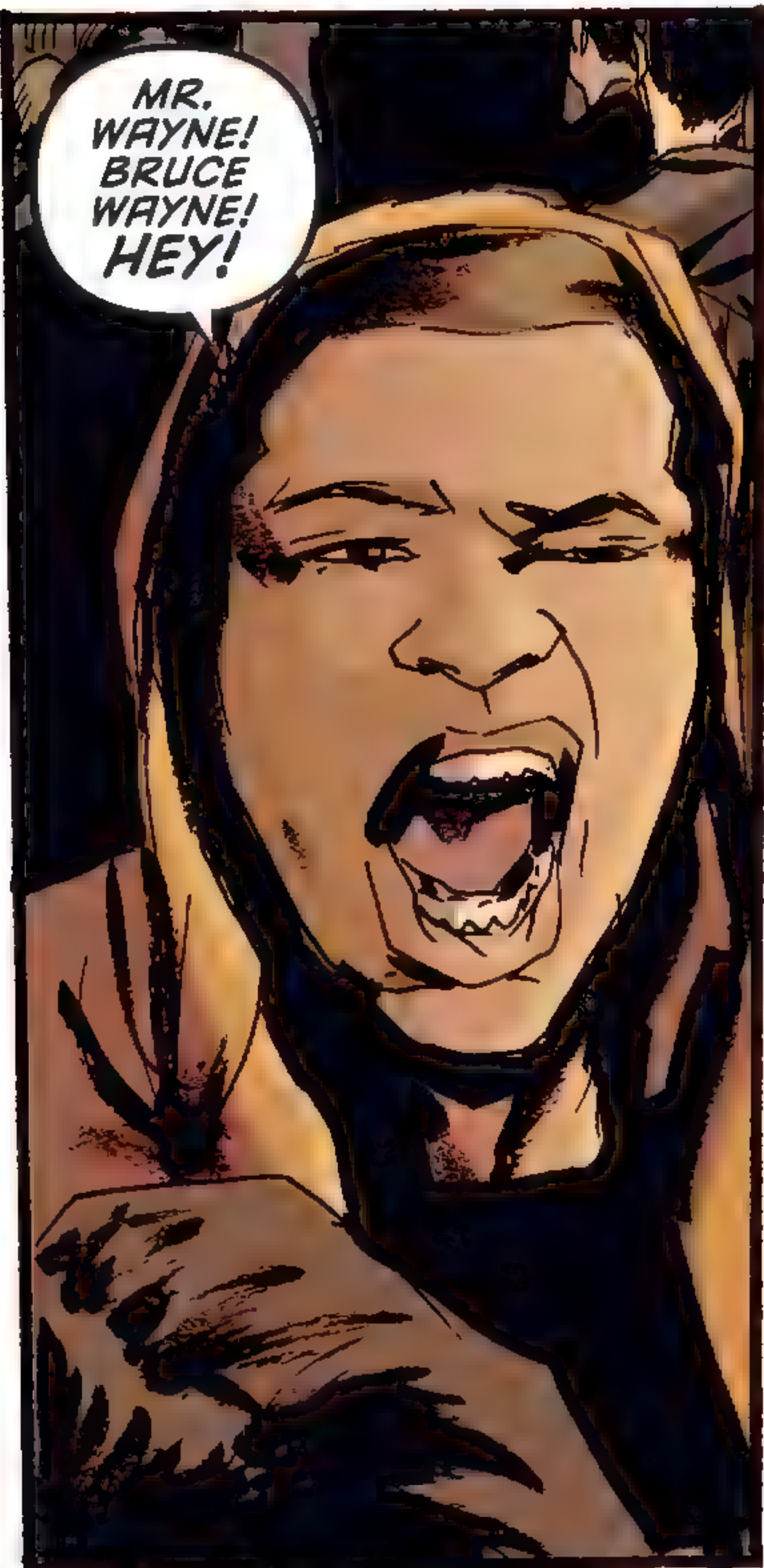


Are you sure?
Are you sure?





"...I TOLD HIM TO GO TO *BRUCE WAYNE*."



MR.
WAYNE!
BRUCE
WAYNE!
HEY!

"PETER'S STORE WAS ONLY WORTH SOMETHING ONCE BRUCE WAYNE ANNOUNCED HE WAS GONNA DEVELOP THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I SAID TO PETER, I SAID, 'YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO THE MAN.' ASKING HIM TO HELP, OR NOT TO BUILD. I DON'T KNOW..."

While some think an infusion of capital is needed, others question whether private developments -- even ones like Wayne Apartments, designed to provide upscale living conditions for lower-middle class families in the Corner -- might drive up property values and force out longtime residents. The

"BUT IT DIDN'T WORK."

"AND THAT WAS IT. NO MORE OPTIONS. THAT'S WHEN HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT *IT*."



ABOUT
WHAT?

ABOUT YOU.
HE WANTED TO
STAND UP FOR
HIMSELF. TO
PUSH BACK.

LIKE *YOU*
DO.

...
HOW?



THERE'S
A PLACE,
BATMAN...



There's a place, Batman... I know
it. It's not a place, it's a feeling. It's
the feeling of being home. It's the
feeling of being safe. It's the feeling
of being loved.

JUST
VIEW

THE
VIEW

There's a place, Batman... I know
it. It's not a place, it's a feeling. It's
the feeling of being home. It's the
feeling of being safe. It's the feeling
of being loved.

THE
VIEW

There's a place, Batman... I know
it. It's not a place, it's a feeling. It's
the feeling of being home. It's the
feeling of being safe. It's the feeling
of being loved.

There's a place, Batman... I know
it. It's not a place, it's a feeling. It's
the feeling of being home. It's the
feeling of being safe. It's the feeling
of being loved.





The World's Largest
Amenity and Toilets
Bathroom

U-Polym is also a sustainable player from the working point of view. Employees are provided with suitable rooms and work conditions. It also pays for the training and development of its employees.

1. **Location:** The location of the site is described as being in the center of the city, near the main square.

Fluoride will also help
reduce the cavity risk
of baby teeth.

[illegible]



On a recent night, the city's police department was called to a scene in the city's downtown area.

In the heart of the city, the police found a scene that was anything but ordinary.

erty values and force out longtime residents. The debate has fierce proponents on both sides, but in the end, the Corner

WITH AUTHORITY" continued

NAACP reported that
deer-involved
city in the last
of those shot
were white.
shootings
es. Although
found in 40

percent of cases, the
NAACP found, no
officers were charged,
not one

Corner by restricting out of the
policies were community groups claiming
and renting homes, from NAACP
from NAACP
Corner by restricting out of the
policies were community groups claiming
and renting homes, from NAACP

criminal
influence the city legisla-
move. The real crimi-
nals are the men and
women who paint the

criminal
influence the city legisla-
move. The real crimi-
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women who paint the

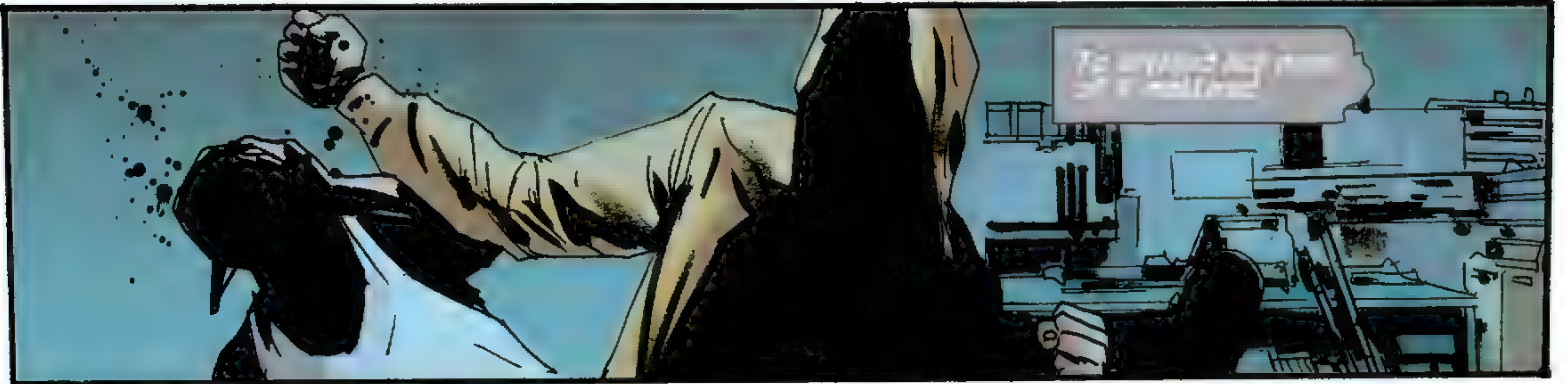
criminal
influence the city legisla-
move. The real crimi-
nals are the men and
women who paint the

criminal
influence the city legisla-
move. The real crimi-
nals are the men and
women who paint the

We should be the ones
who are being rescued
by our friends & allies.



To survive, we must
stay together.



Let's all
stand up
to this.



Let's all
stand up
to this.



But we must
stand. And the day
must come, for then
we will be able
to stand to fight
for the world.



The world is the only
place we can find
the things we need.

The last time

the factory
was closed

because of the strong

and heavy rain

because they
were not
ready

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the







Capullo fco
15
Gallucci



"IN THE
BEGINNING,
THERE WAS
NOTHING.

"AND THEN...

"...THERE WAS
BATMAN.

"AND THIS WAS
GOOD."

This is very,
very bad.

So, Batman, you got
yourself trapped in
an industrial
furnace.

Gun is cooked.

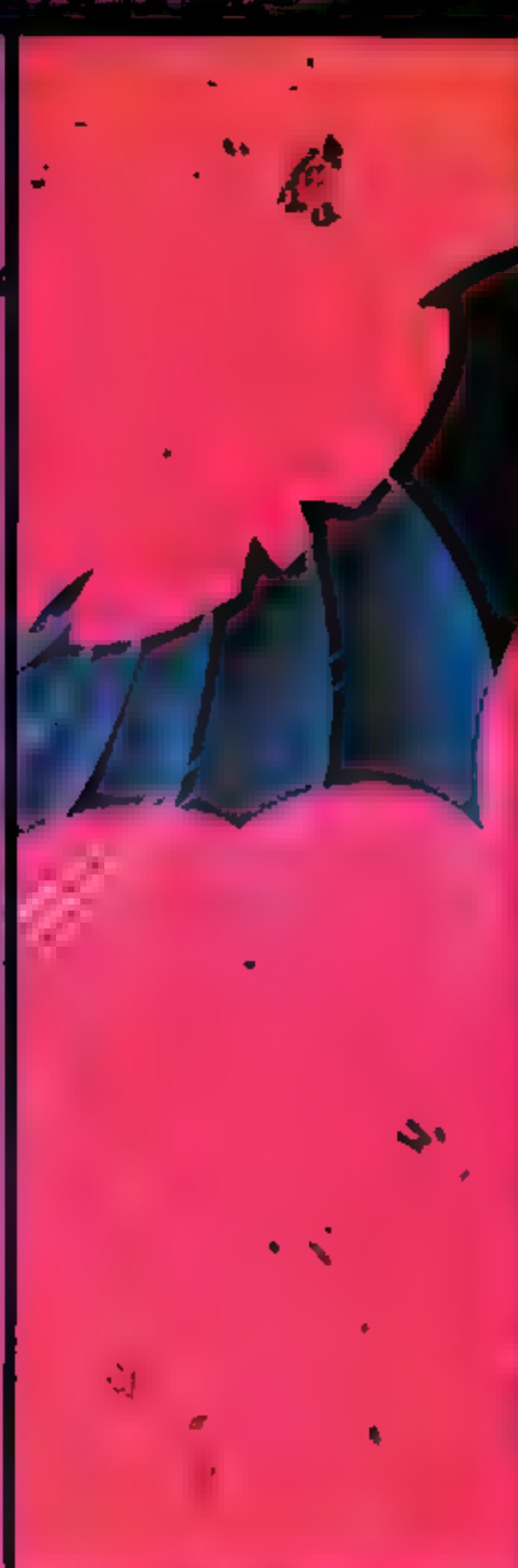
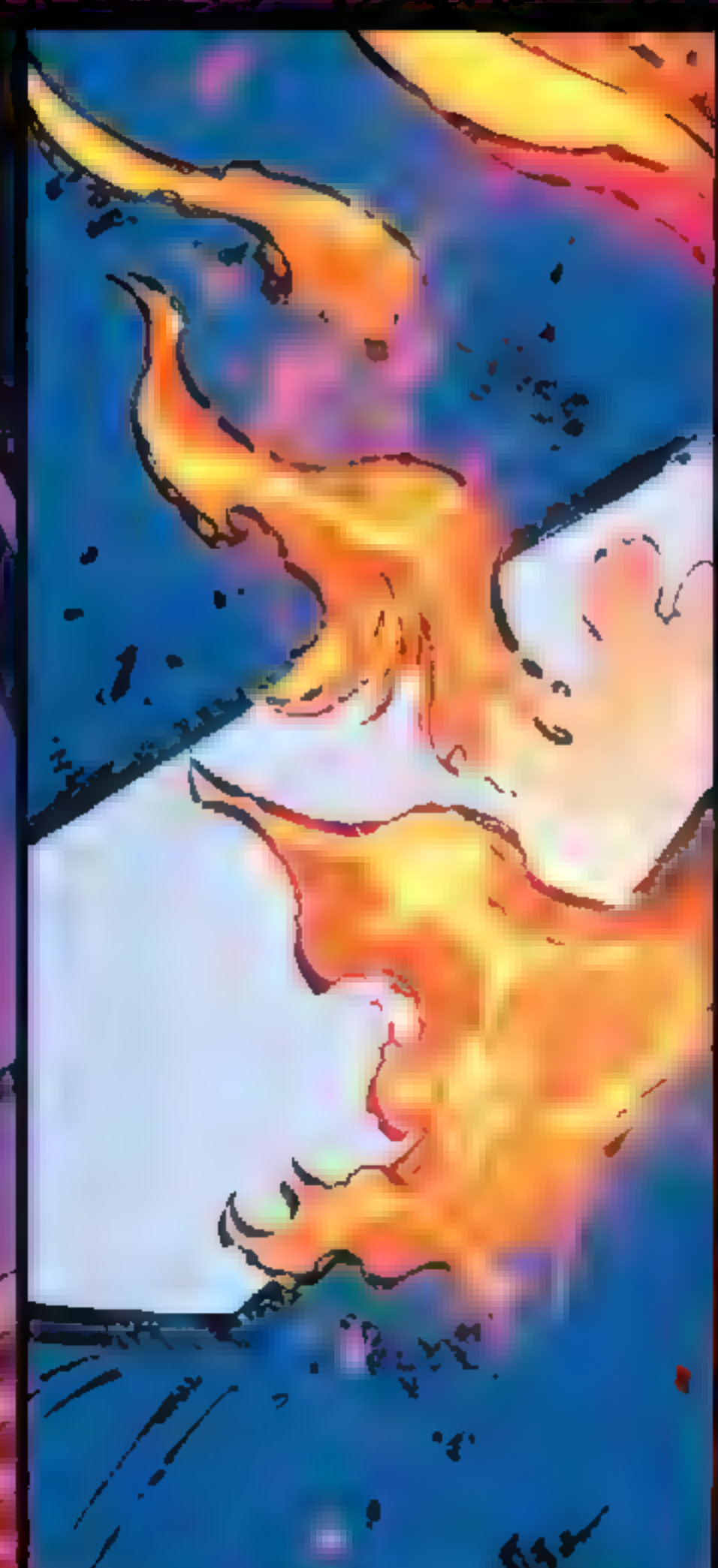
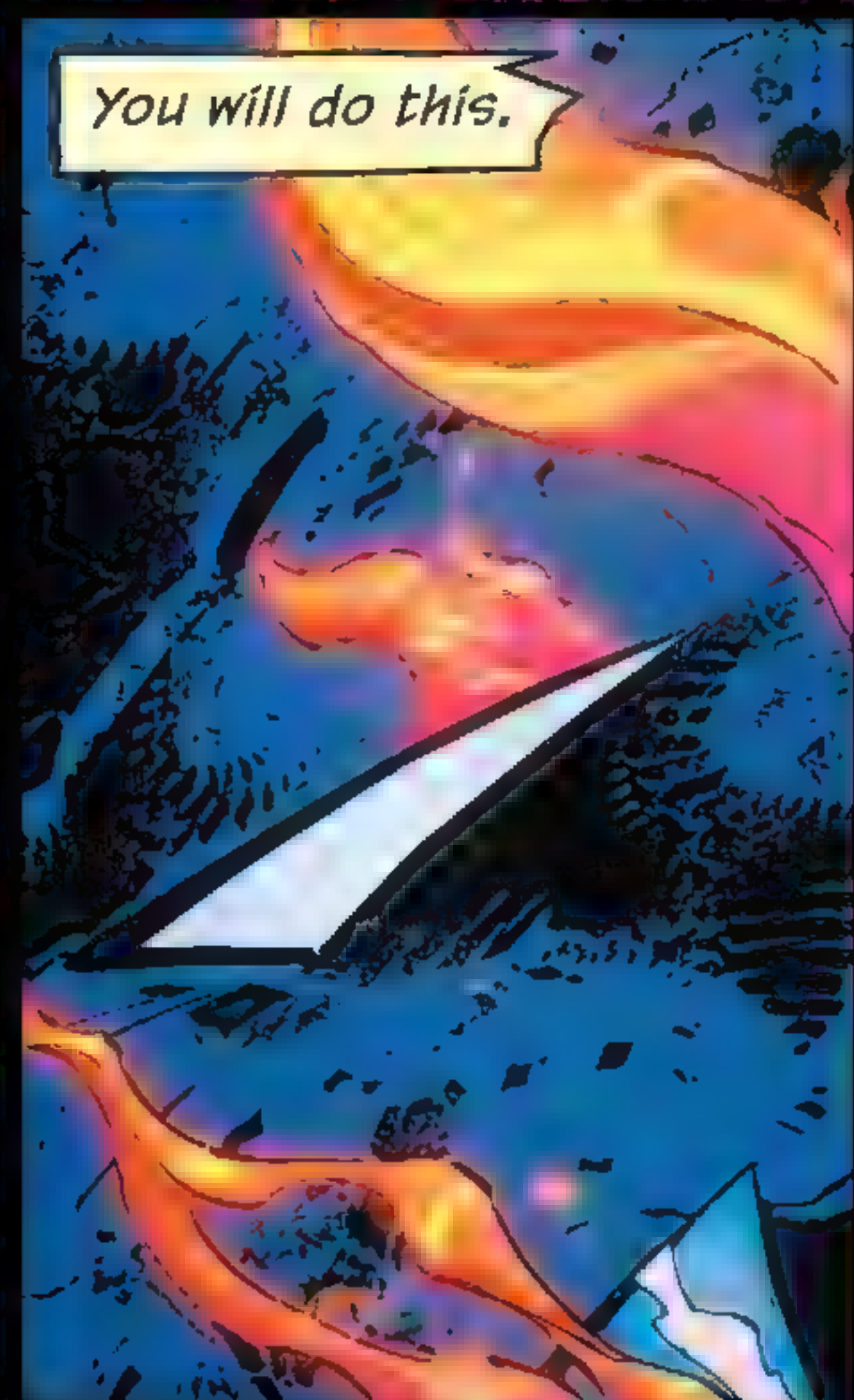
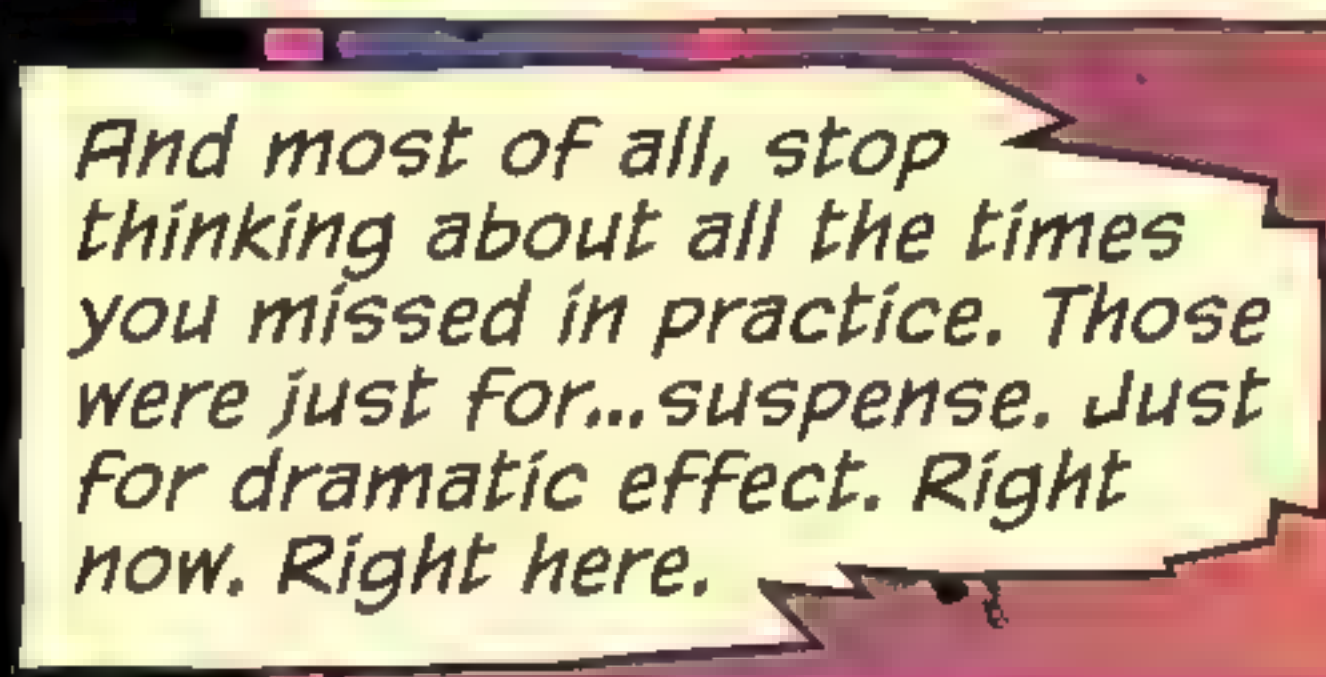
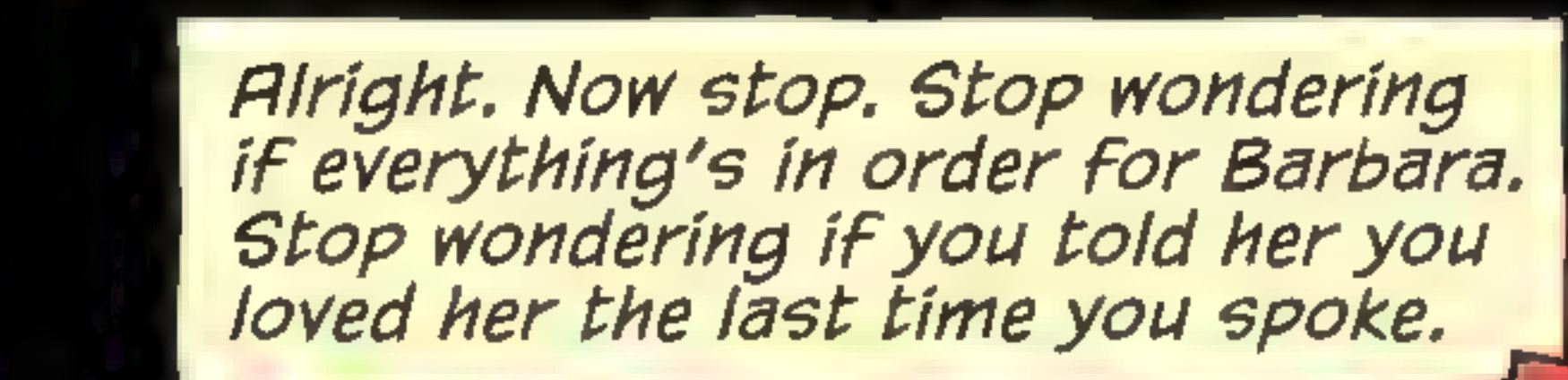
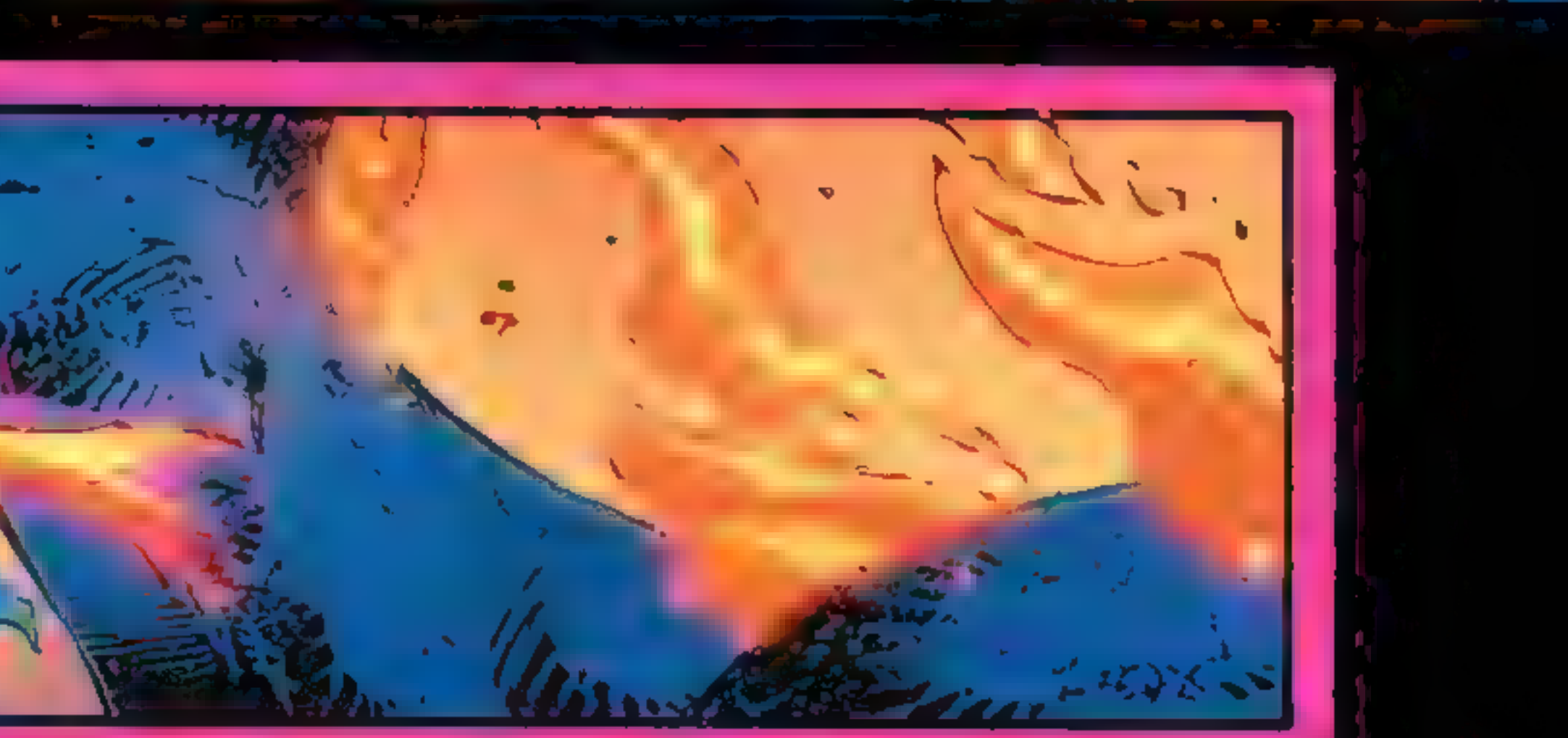
Temperature is
eight hundred
degrees and--

No, make that *nine*
hundred degrees
and rising.

In about thirty seconds, this hot-box will
reach fourteen hundred degrees, cremation
level, and your suit will give out and you
will literally be burnt to dust.

Alright,
Batman...

...time to do
something
amazing.





GET UP! WE NEED TO INFORM BLOOM OF THIS.

AGH!
BUT...BUT, SIR,
MY LEG WAS
EATEN!

I DON'T
CARE! GET
UP! I SAID
GET U--



ACTUALLY,
HOW ABOUT
YOU STAY
DOWN?

NOW
=>huff huff=<
WHERE THE
HELL IS
BLOOM?



YOU
DARE--

AGH!



Stupid,
Batman.
Stupid.

You're rushing
into an ambush
because you're
still used to
having backup.
A partner.



ACK!

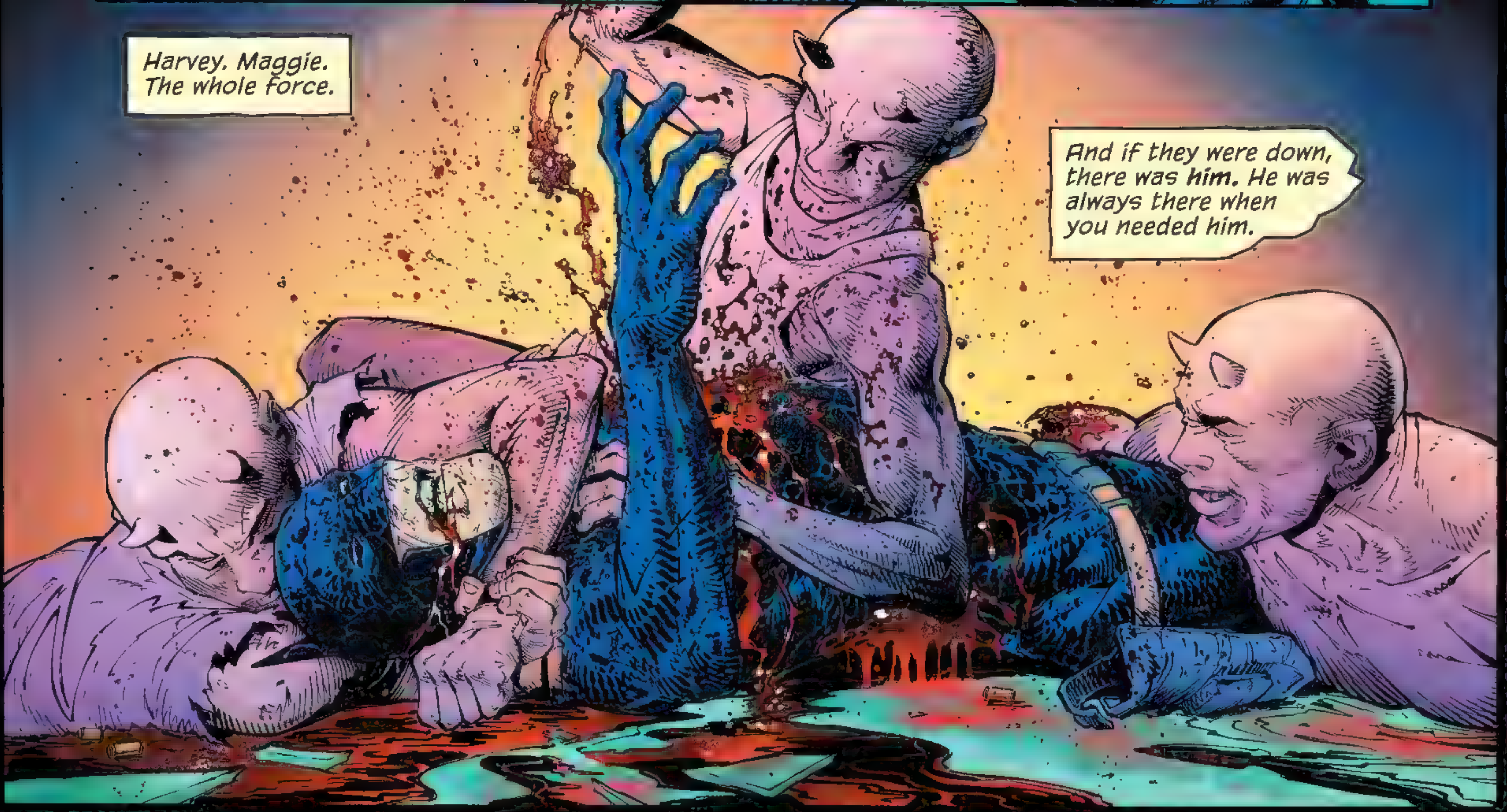
Striking as
a team.



Someone always
watching for the
cheap shot.

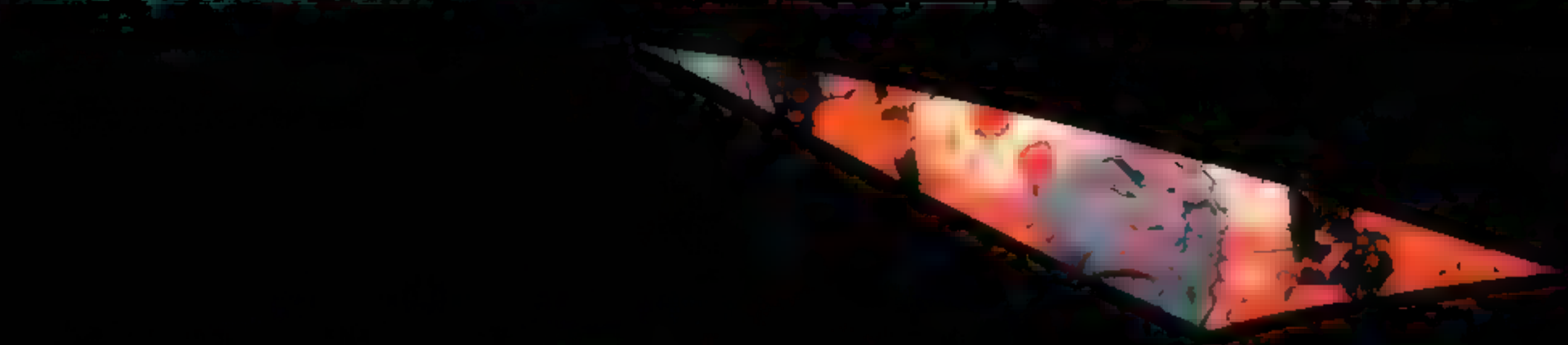


There to help
when things get...
critical.



Harvey. Maggie.
The whole force.

And if they were down,
there was *him*. He was
always there when
you needed him.



But guess what, when
you're Batman...

...when you're Batman,
Batman *doesn't* come
save you.



Or does
he?



I'M HERE
TO PICK UP
SOME CANNED
TUNA?



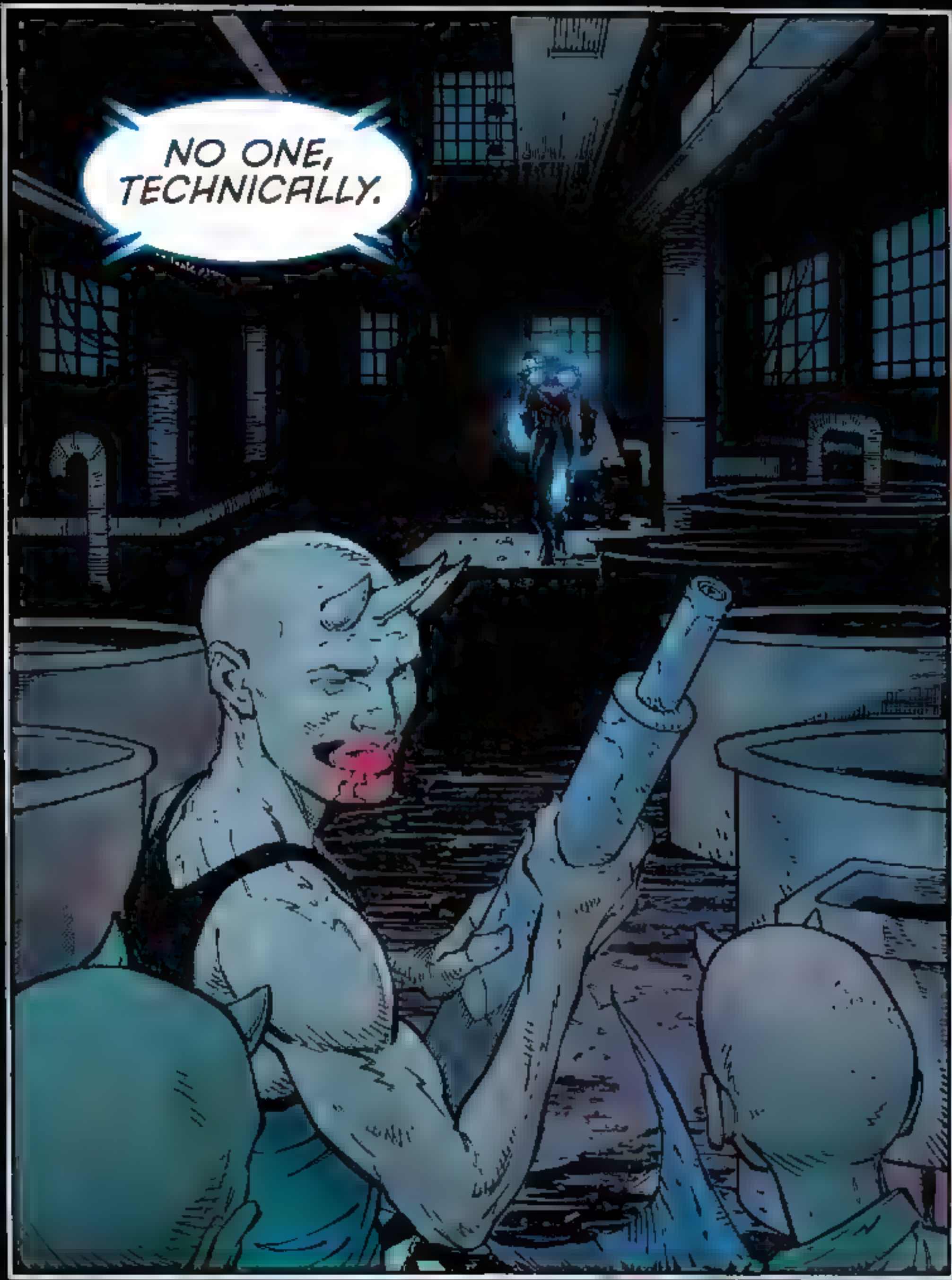
~~=Cough=~~
THAT WOULD
BE ME.

JULIA,
SHE--



SHE'S SAFE WITH US. LISTEN,
BATMAN, I WAS JOKING,
BUT YOUR VITALS...YOU'RE
IN TROUBLE. NOW THE SUIT
WILL COME TO YOU. JUST
PLEASE, STAY VERY
STILL AND--

WAIT,
WHO'S
DRIVING THE
SUIT?



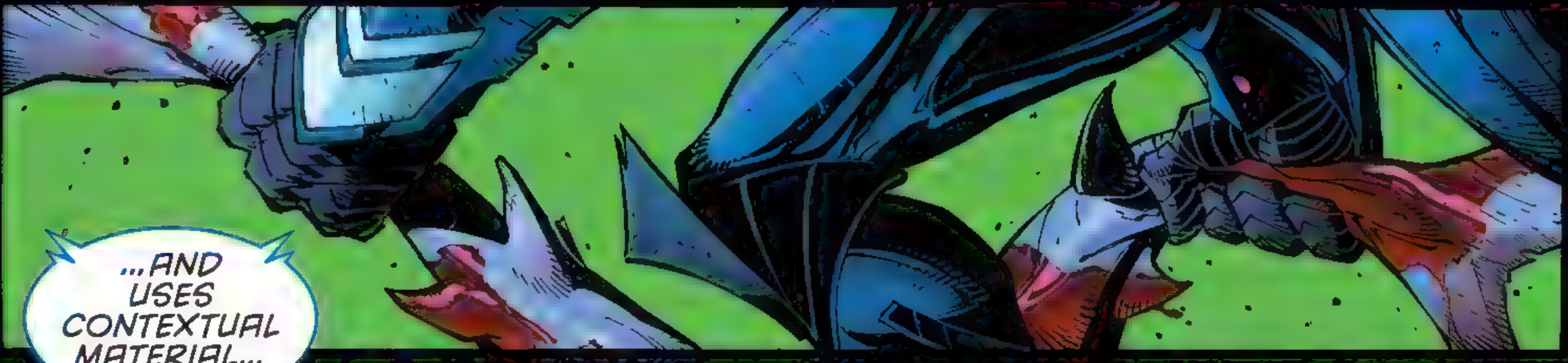
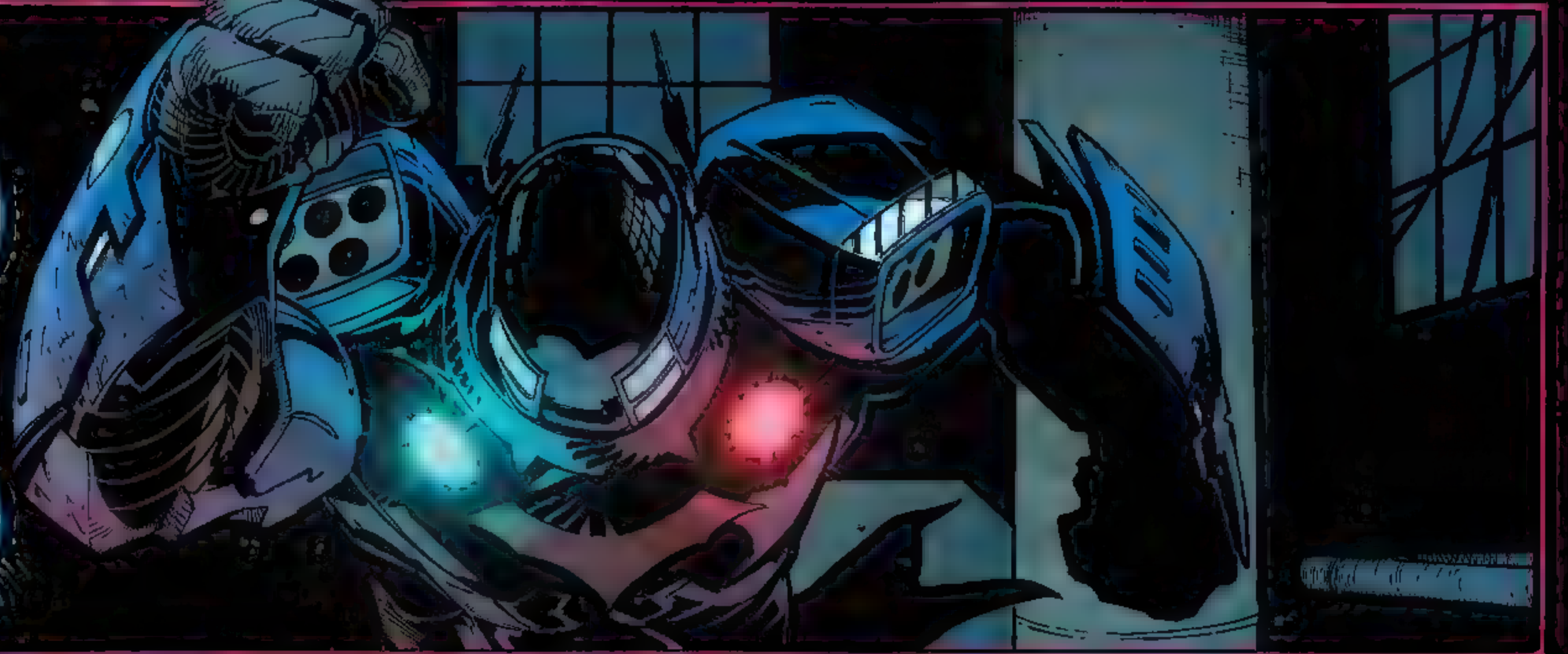
NO ONE,
TECHNICALLY.



DIE, YOU
OVERSIZED...

I HAVE IT ON
WHAT'S CALLED A
NIMBLE AUTO PROGRAM
RIGHT NOW. IT'S NEW. I...
I SET A TARGET AND
THE SUIT CALCULATES A
PLAN TO REACH THAT
TARGET.

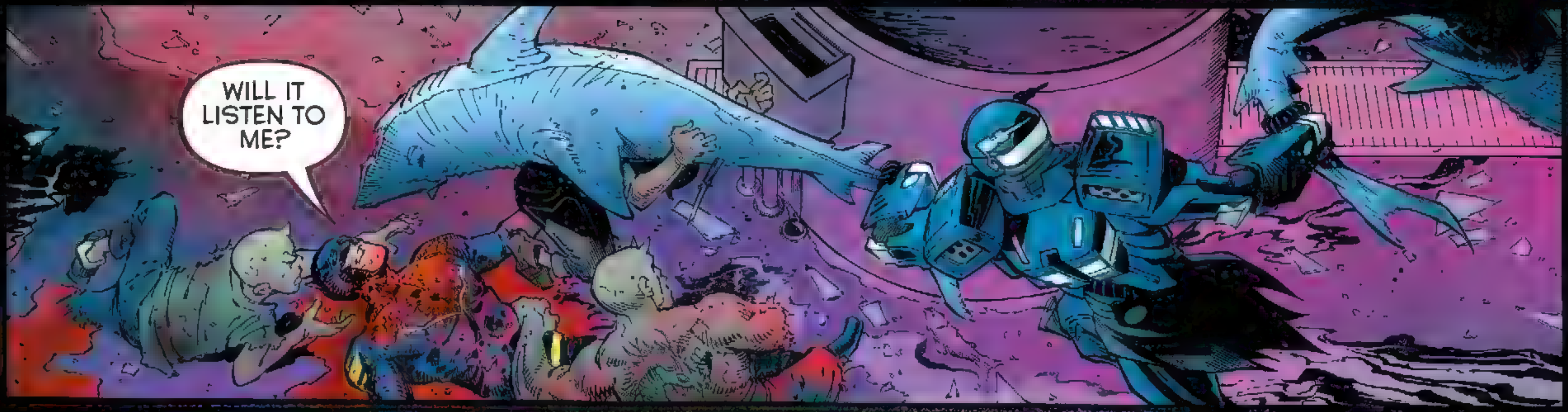
IT'S VERY
BASIC, BUT THE
SUIT WILL ACT
ON ITS OWN...



...AND
USES
CONTEXTUAL
MATERIAL...



...TO
ACHIEVE ITS
GOAL.



WILL IT LISTEN TO ME?



IT'LL TAKE BASIC COMMANDS FROM YOU, SURE. I'VE FAMILIARIZED IT WITH YOUR VOICE.

HEH. "PARTNER MODE."



...THANKS.

HEY, ROOKIE...



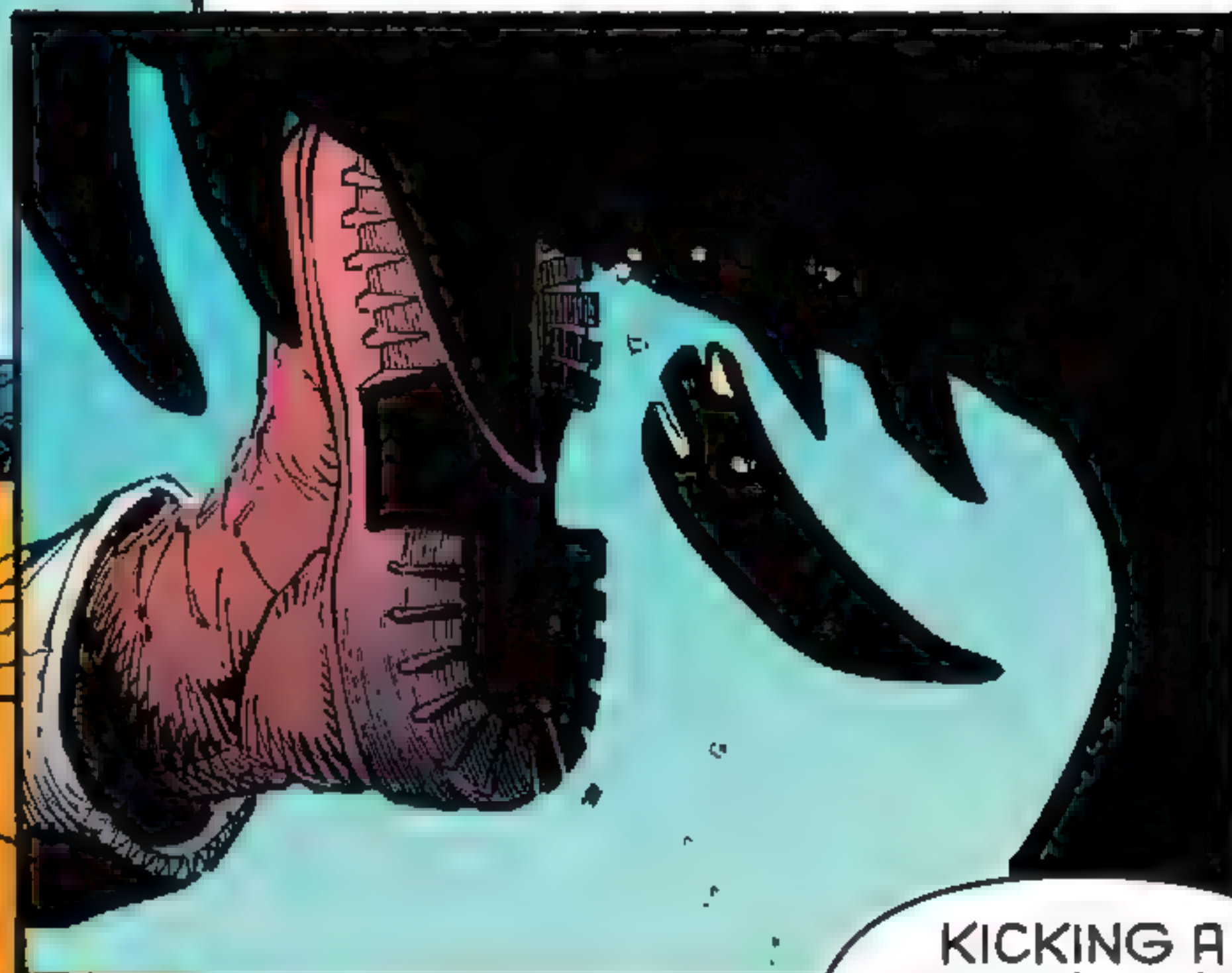
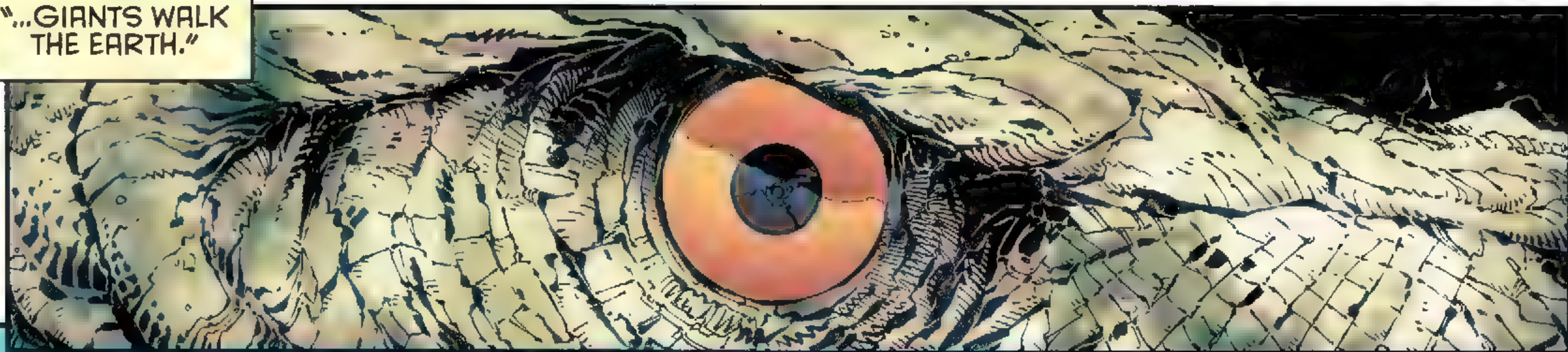
STOP THEM! THEY DO NOT LEAVE! FIRE! NOW, NOW, NOW!



SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

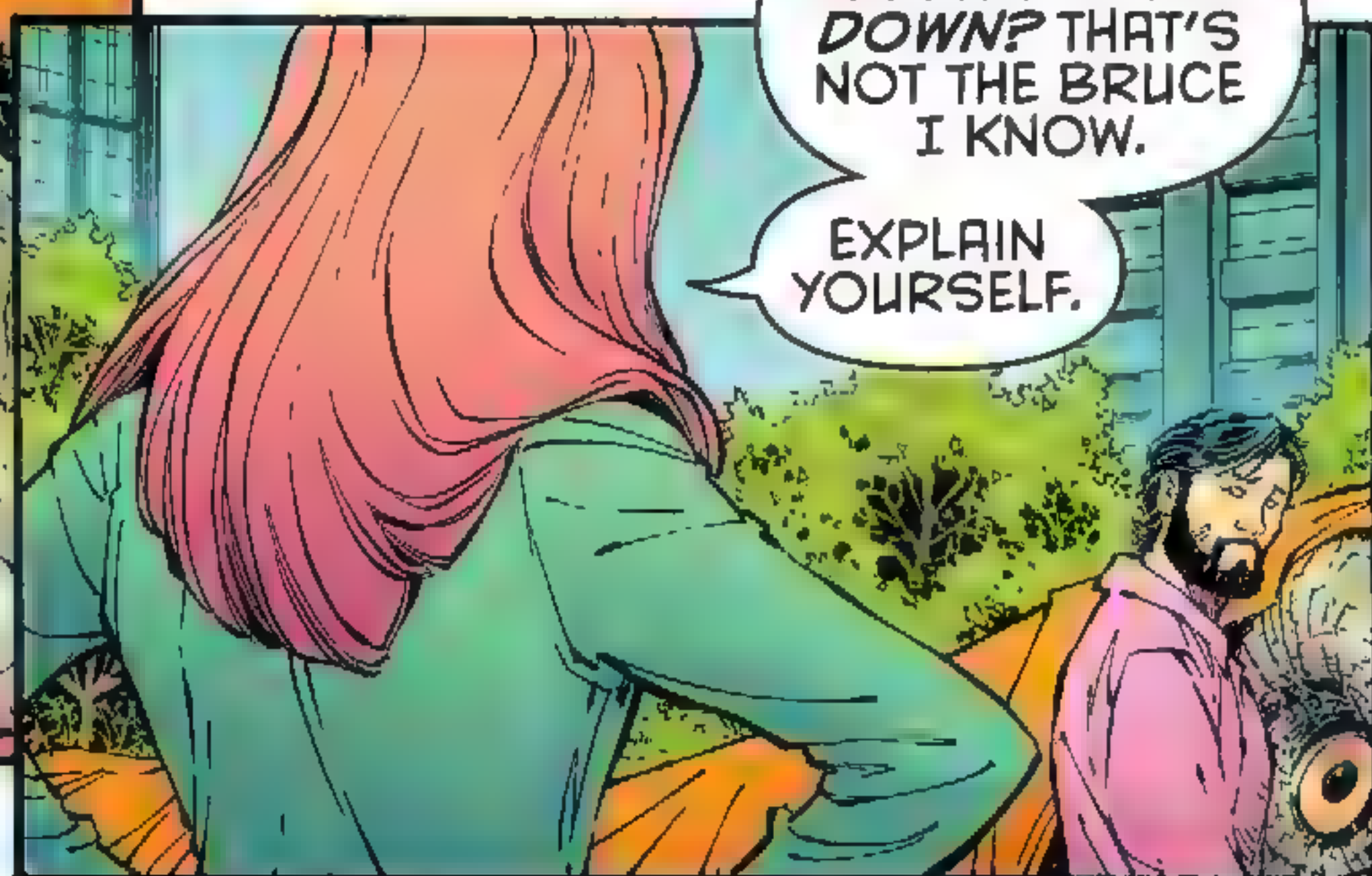
GIANTS WALK THE EARTH, DARYL...

"...GIANTS WALK
THE EARTH."



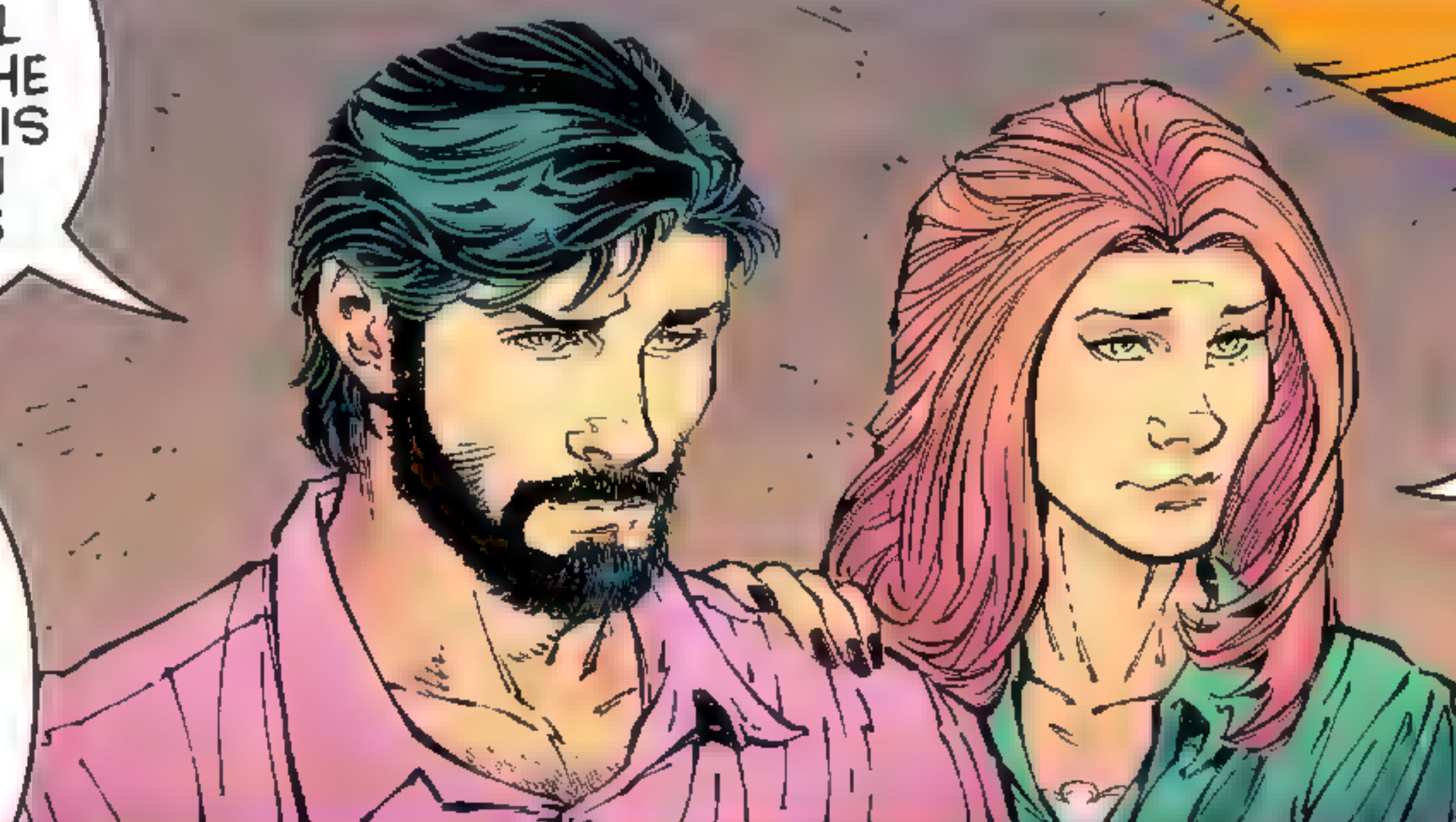
KICKING A
MAN WHILE HE'S
DOWN? THAT'S
NOT THE BRUCE
I KNOW.

EXPLAIN
YOURSELF.



I ASKED ALFRED TO CALL
SOME OLD FRIENDS OF THE
FAMILY ABOUT HAVING THIS
ALL **REMOVED**, BUT YOU
WERE RIGHT, JULES, IT'S
INTRACTABLE.

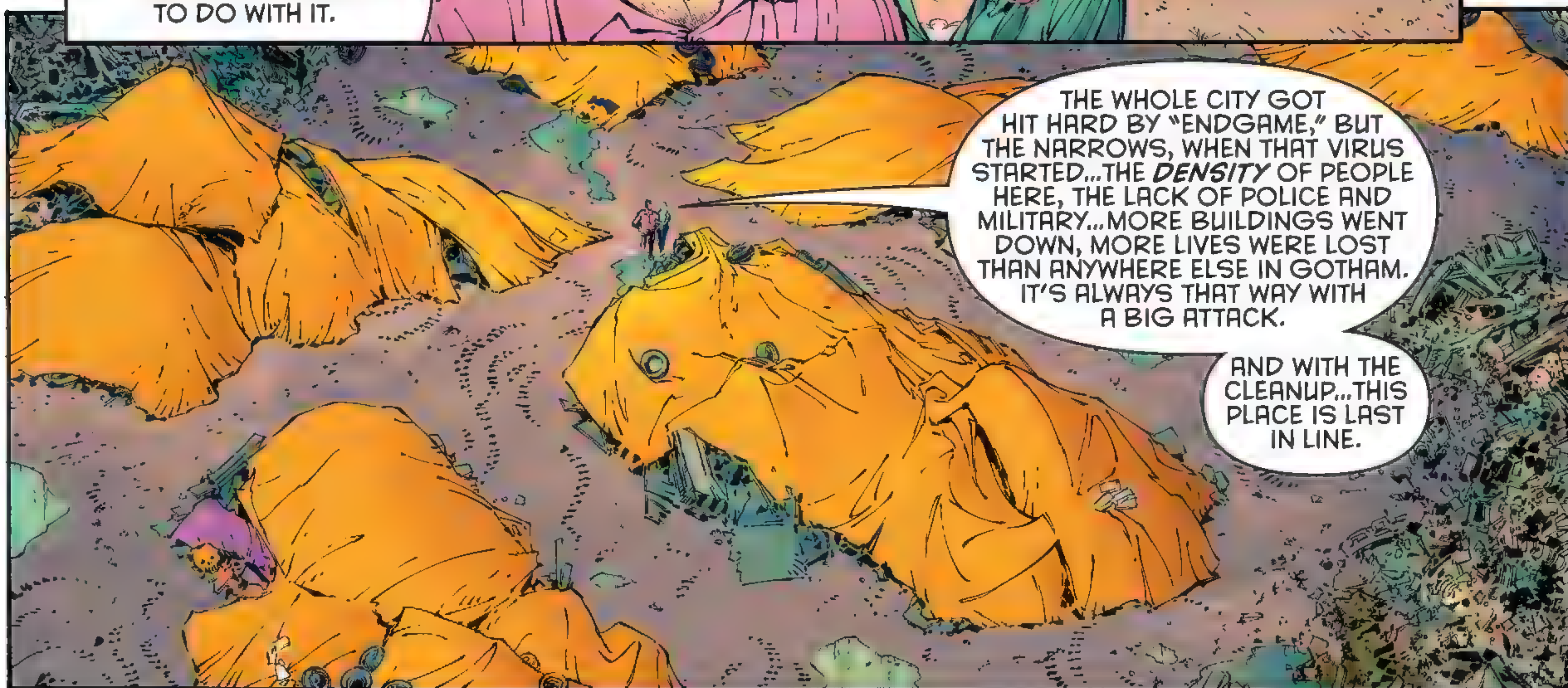
THE CITY HAS
MANDATED ALL THE
WRECKAGE FROM THE
JOKER'S ATTACK STAY
HERE IN THIS MAKESHIFT
DUMP UNTIL THEY CAN
FIGURE OUT WHAT
TO DO WITH IT.

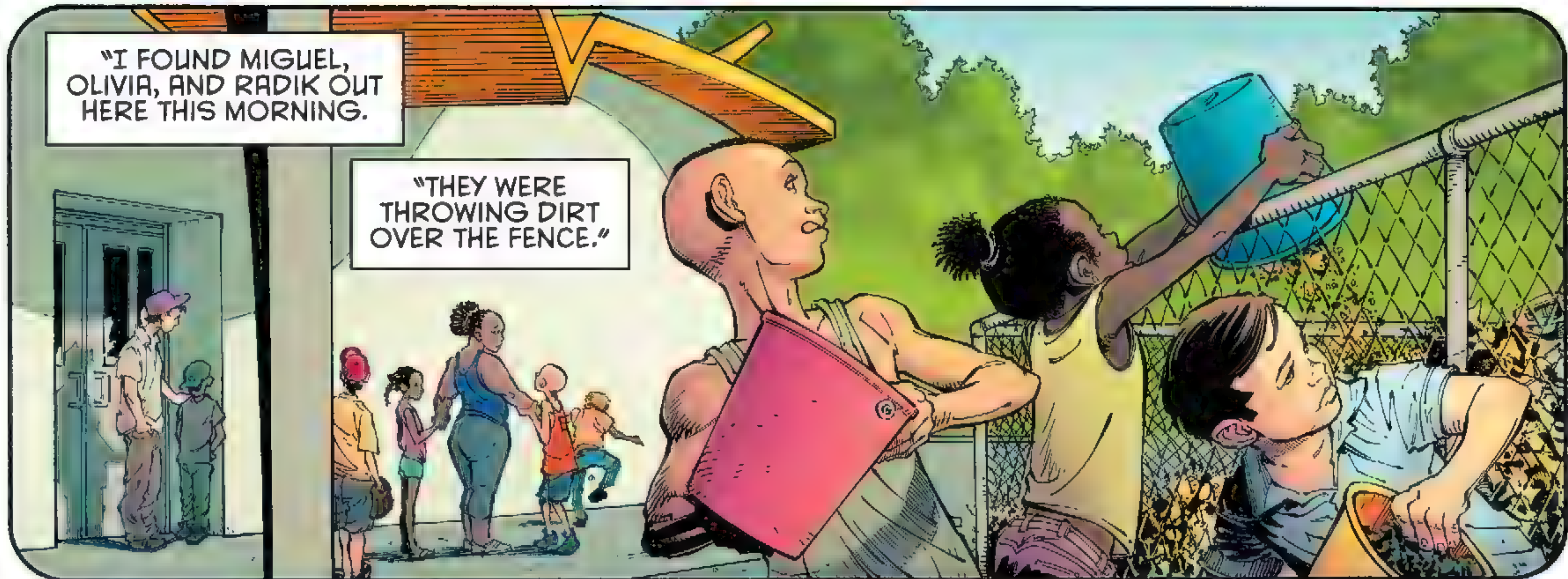


IT'S SWEET
THAT YOU TRIED,
BUT I COULD HAVE
TOLD YOU THEY
WOULDN'T
BUDGE.

THE WHOLE CITY GOT
HIT HARD BY "ENDGAME," BUT
THE NARROWS, WHEN THAT VIRUS
STARTED...THE **DENSITY** OF PEOPLE
HERE, THE LACK OF POLICE AND
MILITARY...MORE BUILDINGS WENT
DOWN, MORE LIVES WERE LOST
THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN GOTHAM.
IT'S ALWAYS THAT WAY WITH
A BIG ATTACK.

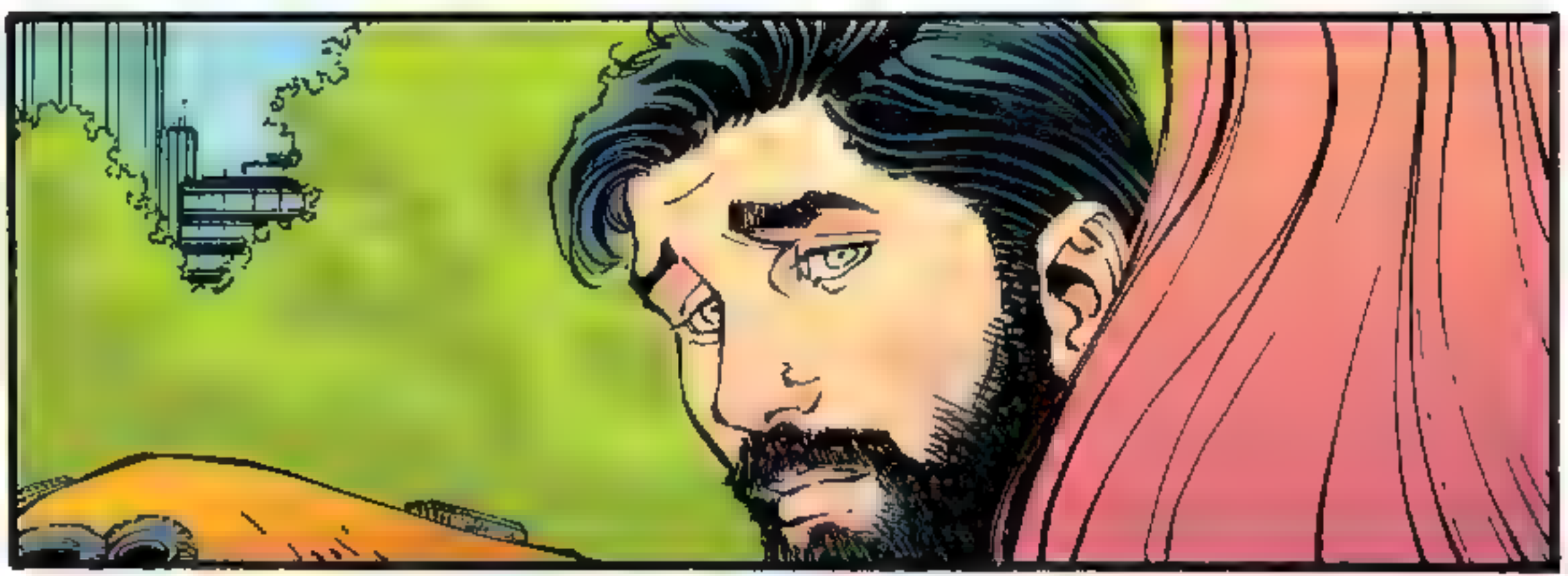
AND WITH THE
CLEANUP...THIS
PLACE IS LAST
IN LINE.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING, 'LIV? YOU KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE LOT.

WE WERE JUST TRYING TO *HIDE* THIS STUFF, BRUCE, SO NO ONE WILL COME FOR IT AND USE IT THE WAY JOKER DID. IF WE COVER IT UP, MAYBE THEY WON'T COME.



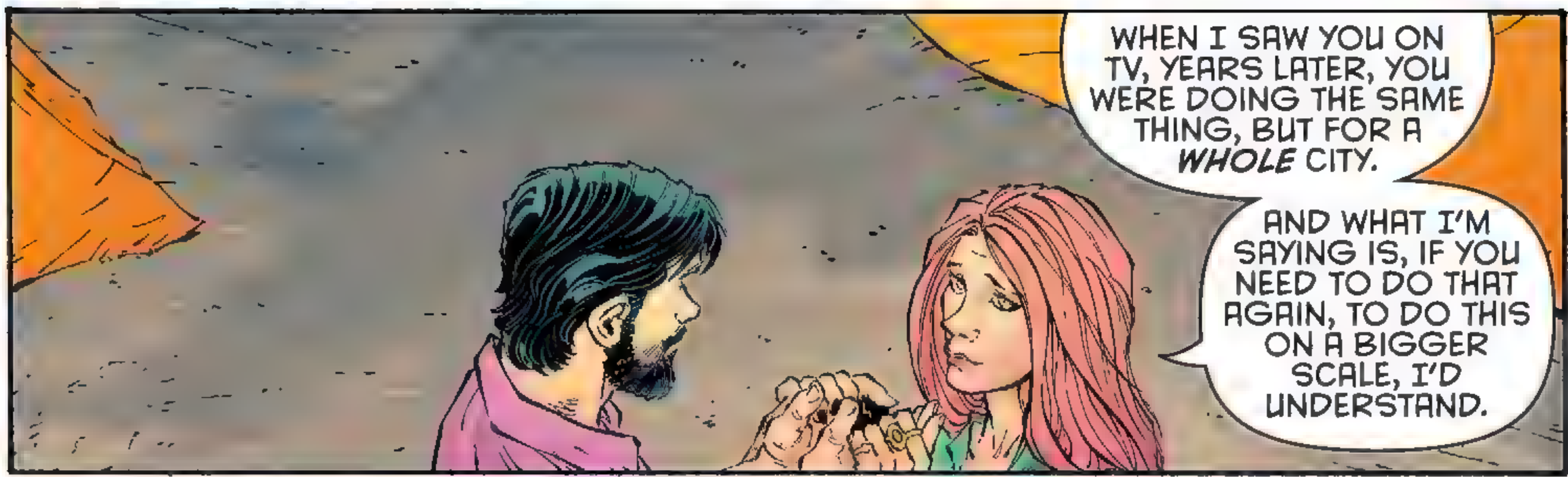
LISTEN TO ME, BRUCE. YOU DON'T REMEMBER THIS, BUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, I WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED THAT MY FATHER WOULD *BREAK* OUT, OR BE LET OUT, OR JUST...SHOW UP. HE WAS A *BAD* MAN, BRUCE. YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM.

...

"I WAS ALWAYS TOUGHENING MYSELF UP. READYING FOR THAT DAY. BUT YOU...THE THING ABOUT YOU WAS, YOU'D BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING TRAUMATIC, AND INSTEAD OF MAKING YOURSELF FEEL SAFE, LIKE ME...

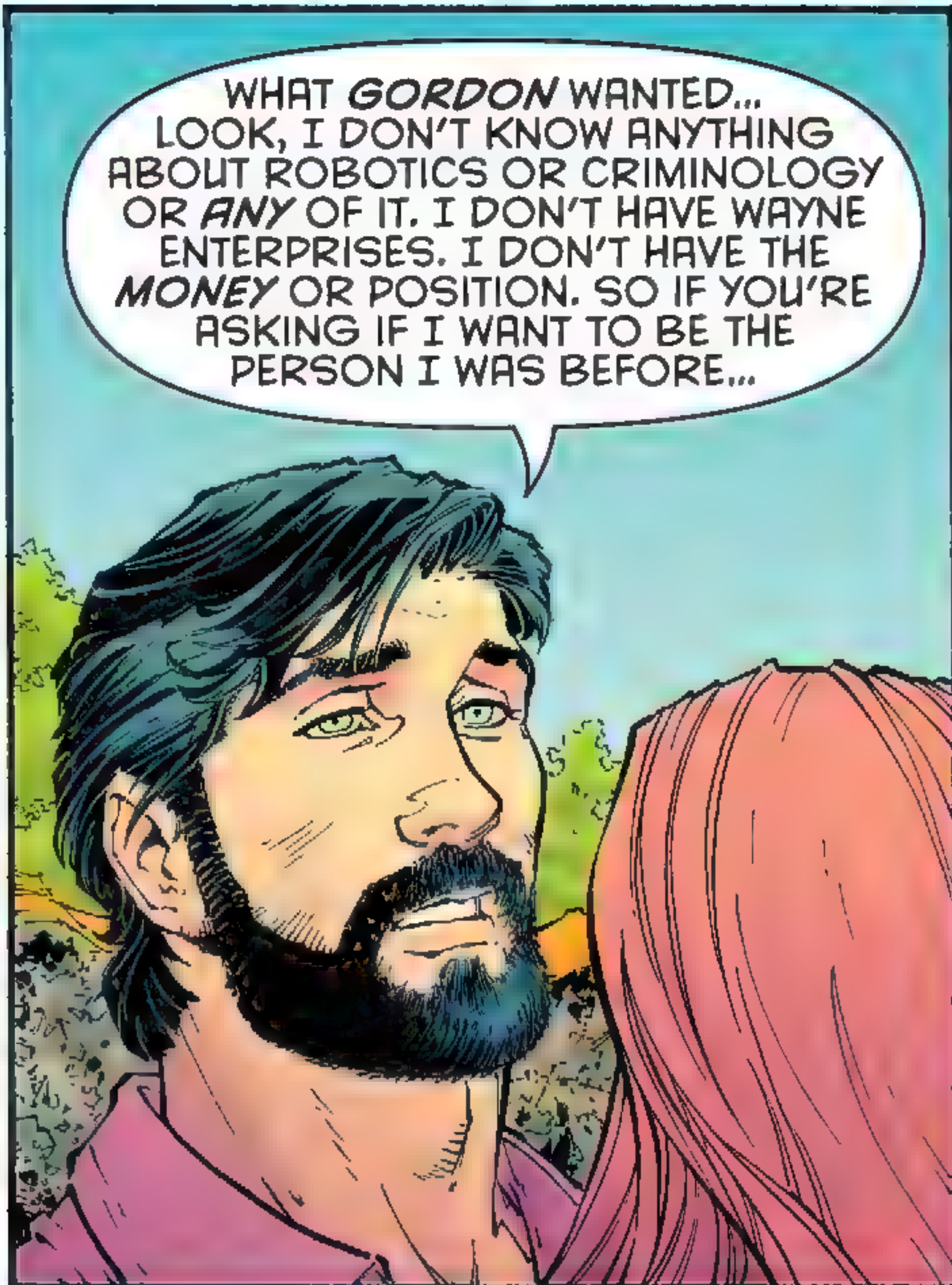
"...YOU CHanneled WHATEVER FEAR YOU FELT INTO MAKING *OTHER* PEOPLE FEEL BRAVE. I LOVED YOU FOR THAT."





WHEN I SAW YOU ON TV, YEARS LATER, YOU WERE DOING THE SAME THING, BUT FOR A **WHOLE CITY**.

AND WHAT I'M SAYING IS, IF YOU NEED TO DO THAT AGAIN, TO DO THIS ON A BIGGER SCALE, I'D UNDERSTAND.

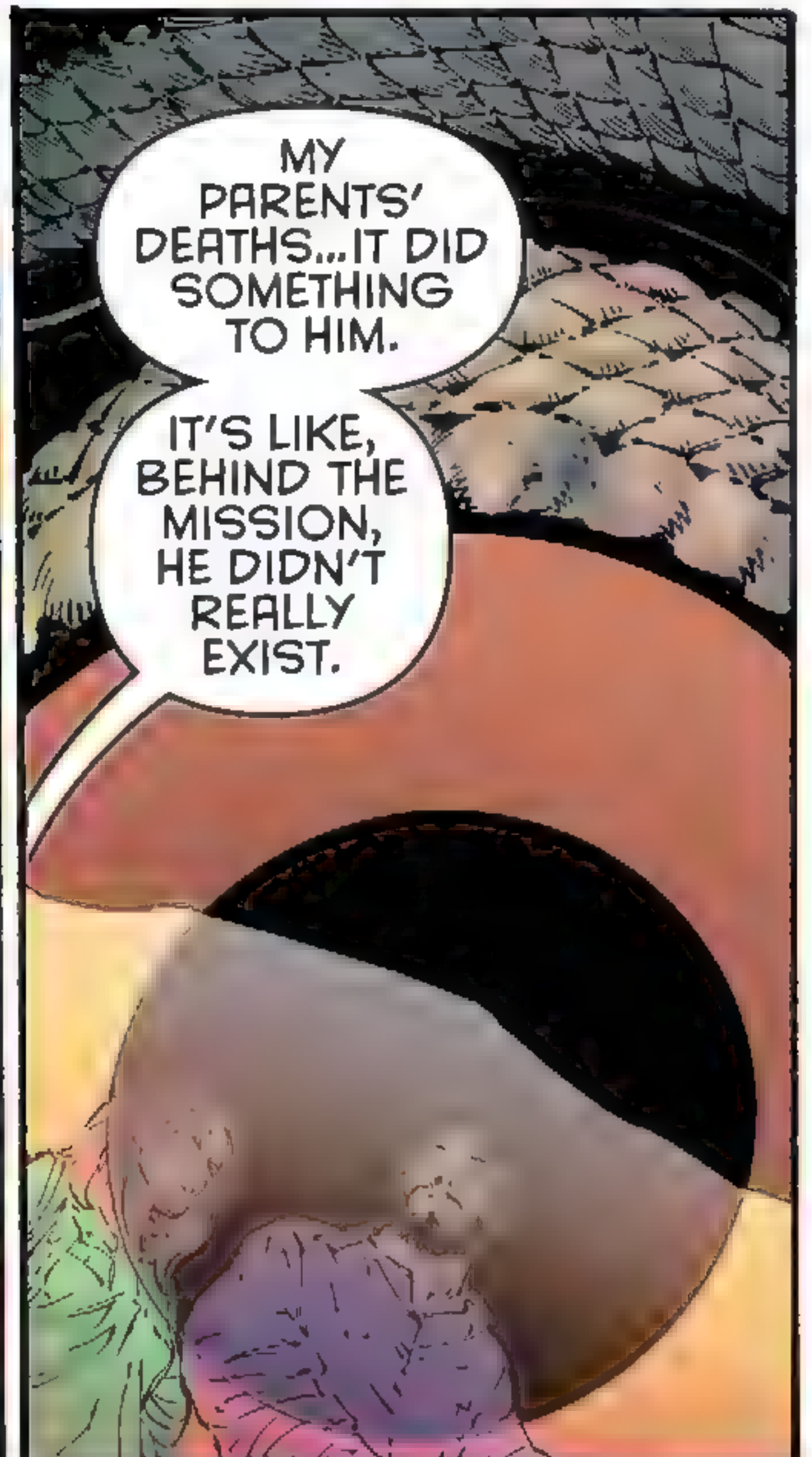


WHAT **GORDON** WANTED... LOOK, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ROBOTICS OR CRIMINOLOGY OR **ANY** OF IT. I DON'T HAVE WAYNE ENTERPRISES. I DON'T HAVE THE **MONEY** OR POSITION. SO IF YOU'RE ASKING IF I WANT TO BE THE PERSON I WAS BEFORE...



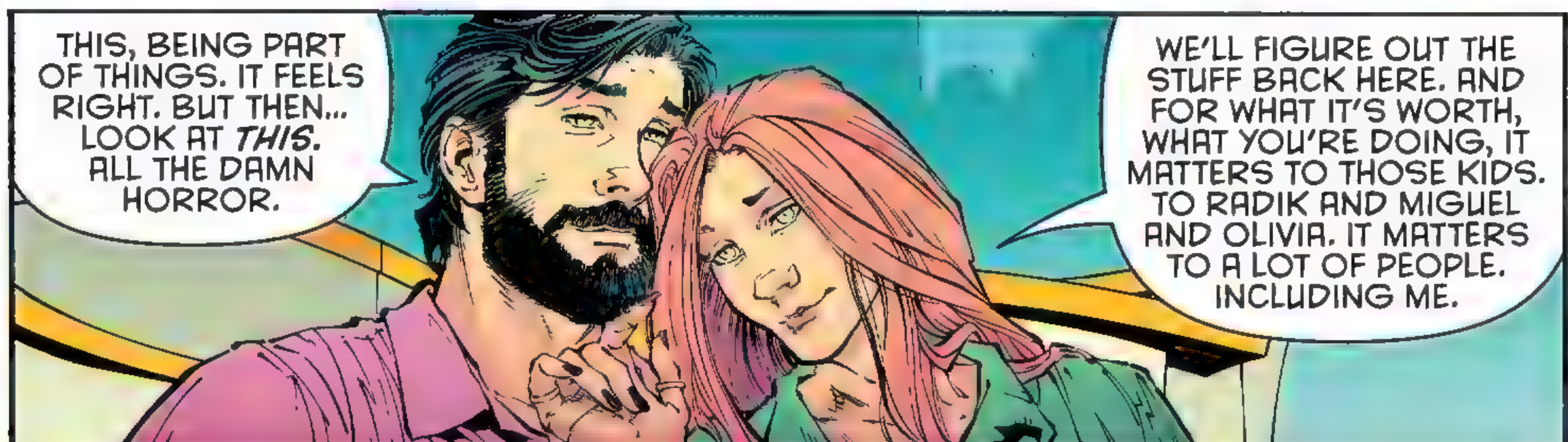
I WENT BACK TO THE MANOR THE OTHER DAY. JUST TO...SEE, I GUESS. I LOOKED THROUGH MY OLD CLOSETS. I EVEN TRIED ON MY SUITS.

THE THING IS, THERE WAS NO TRACE OF A LIFE THERE. THAT BRUCE HAD NO PICTURES ANYWHERE. NOT OF FAMILY OR FRIENDS. NOT OF THE PEOPLE HE'D HELPED.



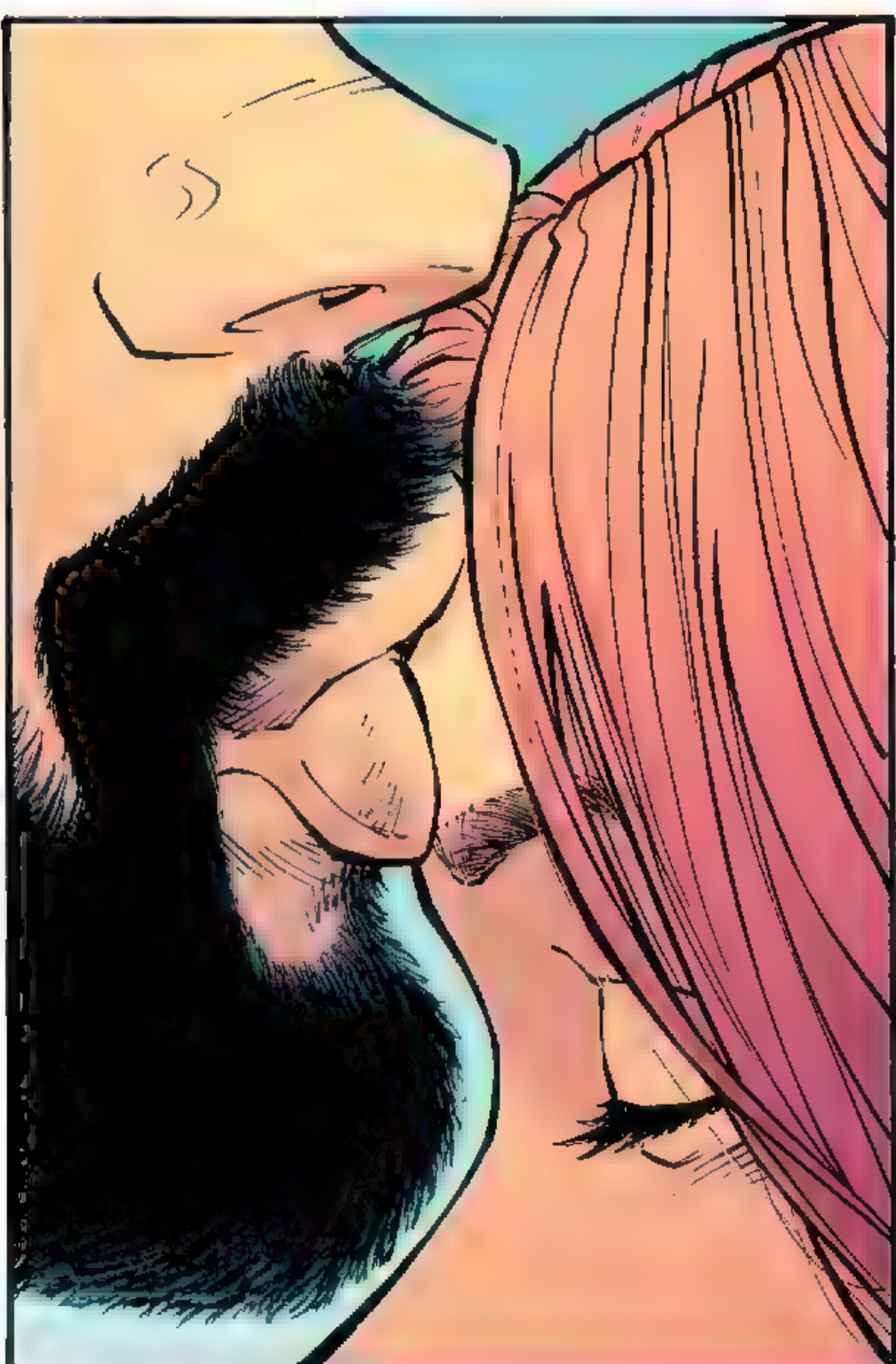
MY PARENTS' DEATHS...IT DID SOMETHING TO HIM.

IT'S LIKE, BEHIND THE MISSION, HE DIDN'T REALLY EXIST.



THIS, BEING PART OF THINGS. IT FEELS RIGHT. BUT THEN... LOOK AT **THIS**. ALL THE DAMN HORROR.

WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE STUFF BACK HERE. AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WHAT YOU'RE DOING, IT MATTERS TO THOSE KIDS. TO RADIK AND MIGUEL AND OLIVIA. IT MATTERS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. INCLUDING ME.



LISTEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I L--

SHUT UP.



LET'S GO BACK IN. SINCE THERE'S **NOTHING** WE CAN DO ABOUT THIS STUFF TODAY...

"...LET'S JUST CLOSE
THE DOOR ON IT,
BEST WE CAN."

DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

"ANYONE
HOME?"

HELLO?

I COME
BEARING
GIFTS.

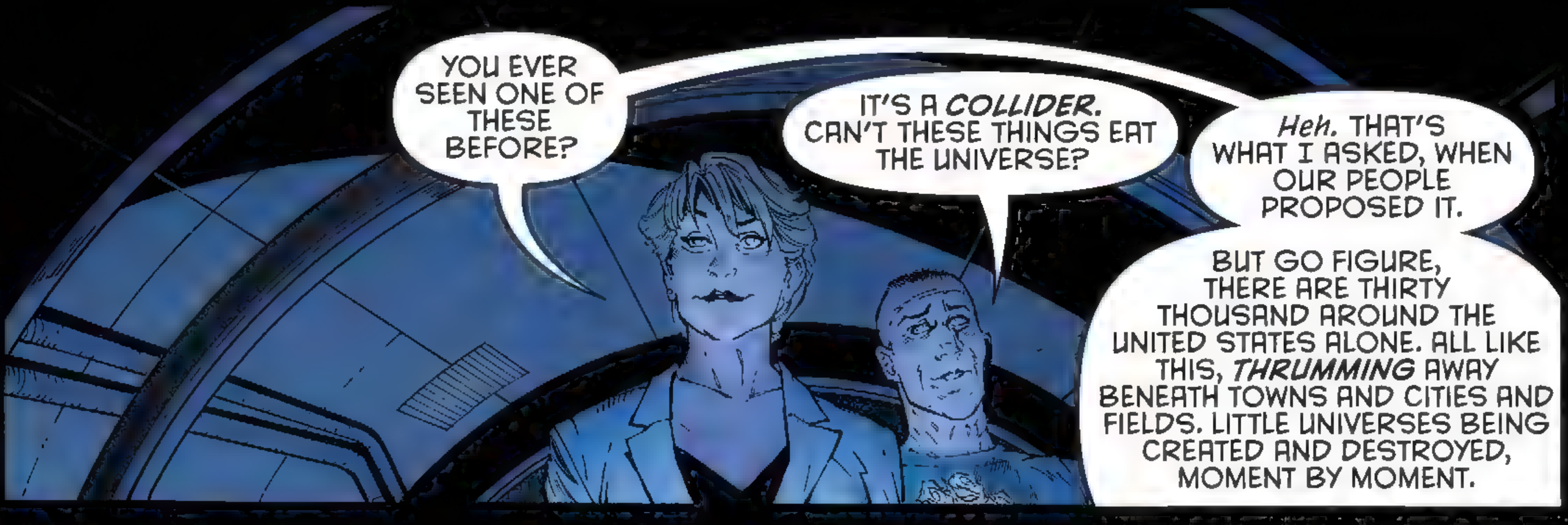
THAT'S
SWEET, JIM.

(EVEN IF
THOSE ARE
FROM THE
HALLWAY.)

BUT SEE, THIS
IS THE PART WHERE
I REVEAL MYSELF TO
BE THE *VILLAIN* OF
THE STORY. LET ME
SHOW YOU MY
EVIL BASE.

WHOR.

SEE?
WALK WITH
ME.

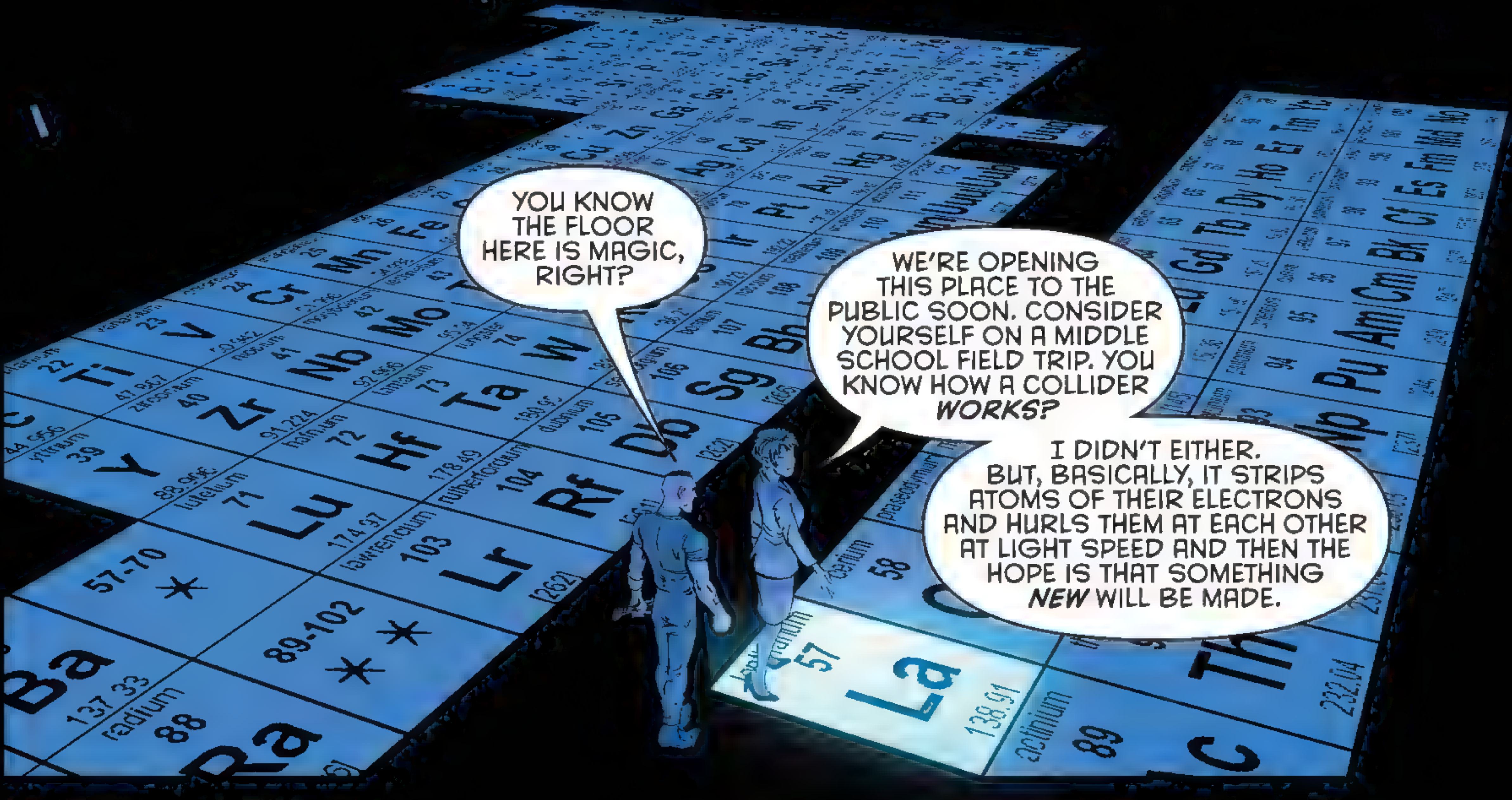


YOU EVER
SEEN ONE OF
THESE
BEFORE?

IT'S A *COLLIDER*.
CAN'T THESE THINGS EAT
THE UNIVERSE?

Heh. THAT'S
WHAT I ASKED, WHEN
OUR PEOPLE
PROPOSED IT.

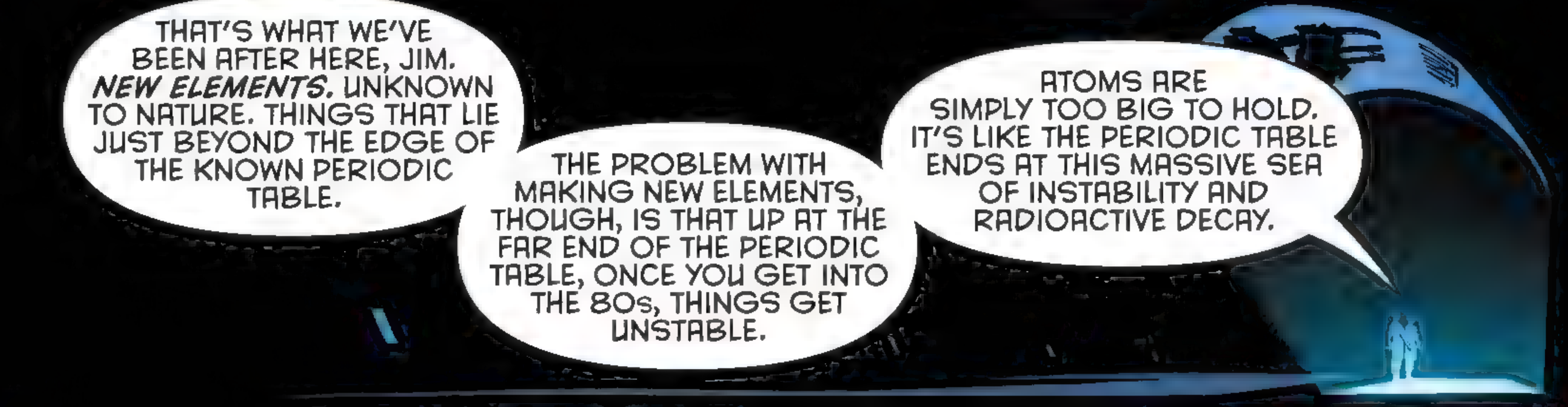
BUT GO FIGURE,
THERE ARE THIRTY
THOUSAND AROUND THE
UNITED STATES ALONE. ALL LIKE
THIS, *THRUMMING* AWAY
BENEATH TOWNS AND CITIES AND
FIELDS. LITTLE UNIVERSES BEING
CREATED AND DESTROYED,
MOMENT BY MOMENT.



YOU KNOW
THE FLOOR
HERE IS MAGIC,
RIGHT?

WE'RE OPENING
THIS PLACE TO THE
PUBLIC SOON. CONSIDER
YOURSELF ON A MIDDLE
SCHOOL FIELD TRIP. YOU
KNOW HOW A COLLIDER
WORKS?

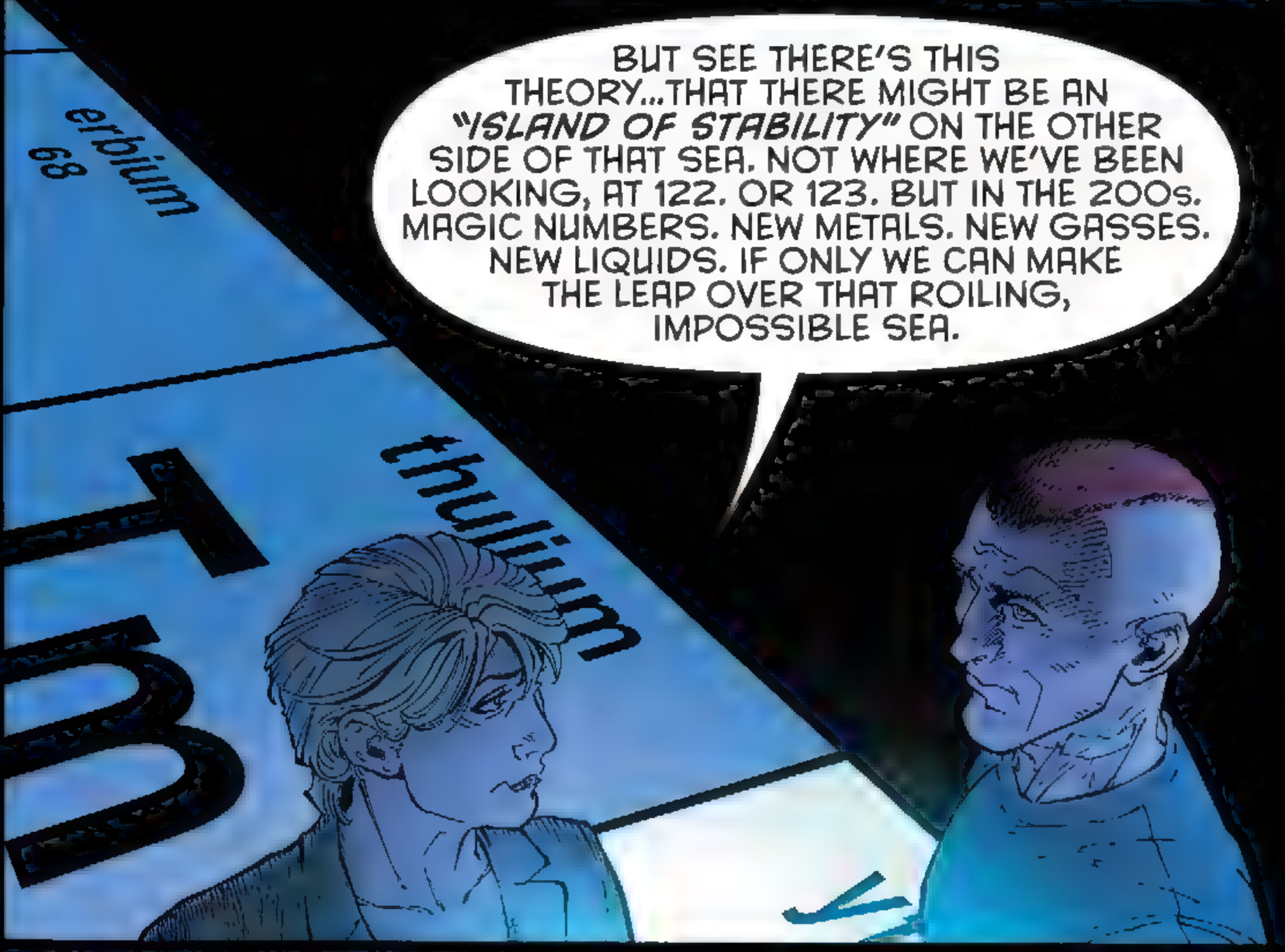
I DIDN'T EITHER.
BUT, BASICALLY, IT STRIPS
ATOMS OF THEIR ELECTRONS
AND HURLS THEM AT EACH OTHER
AT LIGHT SPEED AND THEN THE
HOPE IS THAT SOMETHING
NEW WILL BE MADE.



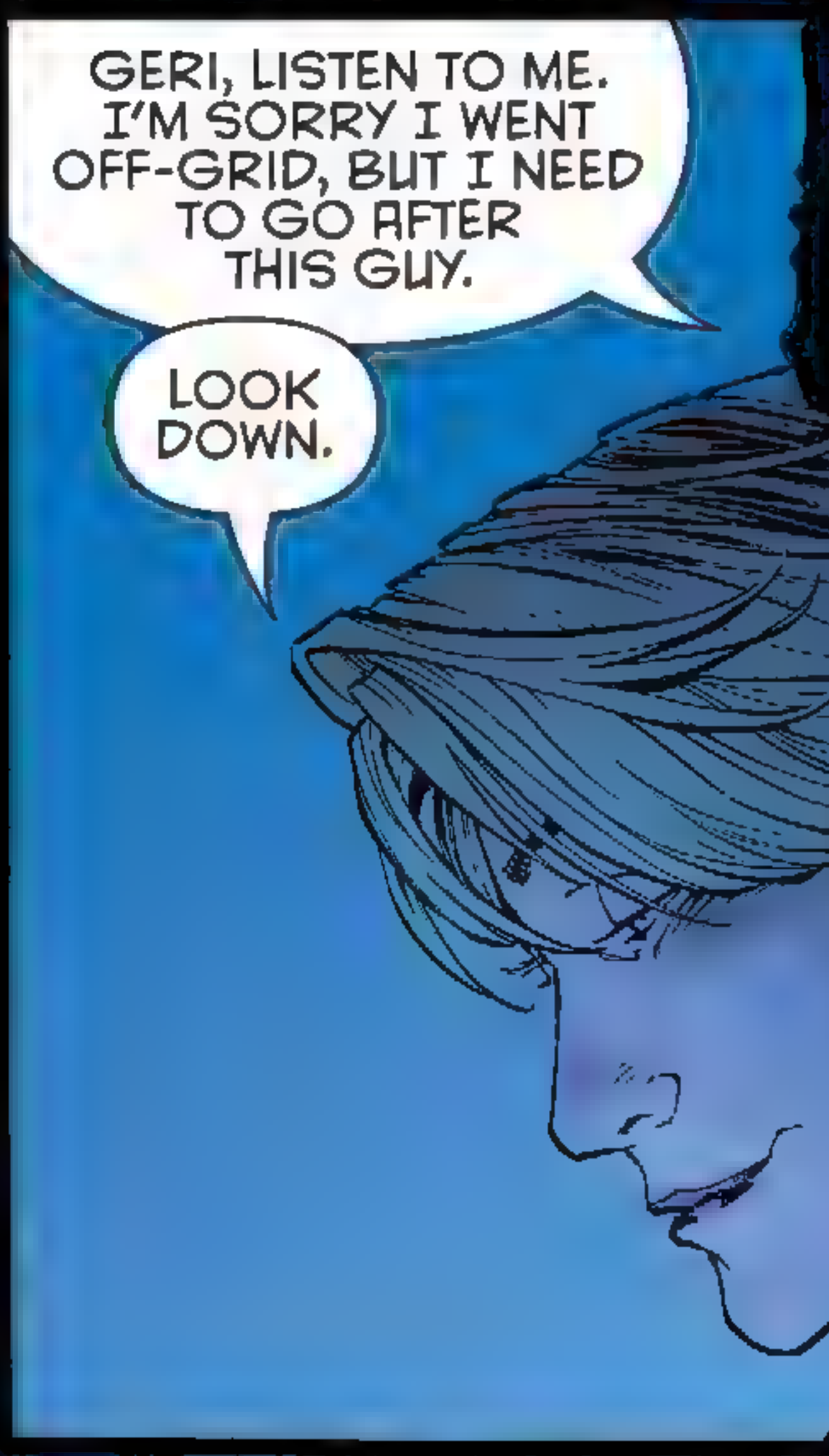
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE
BEEN AFTER HERE, JIM.
NEW ELEMENTS. UNKNOWN
TO NATURE. THINGS THAT LIE
JUST BEYOND THE EDGE OF
THE KNOWN PERIODIC
TABLE.

THE PROBLEM WITH
MAKING NEW ELEMENTS,
THOUGH, IS THAT UP AT THE
FAR END OF THE PERIODIC
TABLE, ONCE YOU GET INTO
THE 80s, THINGS GET
UNSTABLE.

ATOMS ARE
SIMPLY TOO BIG TO HOLD.
IT'S LIKE THE PERIODIC TABLE
ENDS AT THIS MASSIVE SEA
OF INSTABILITY AND
RADIOACTIVE DECAY.



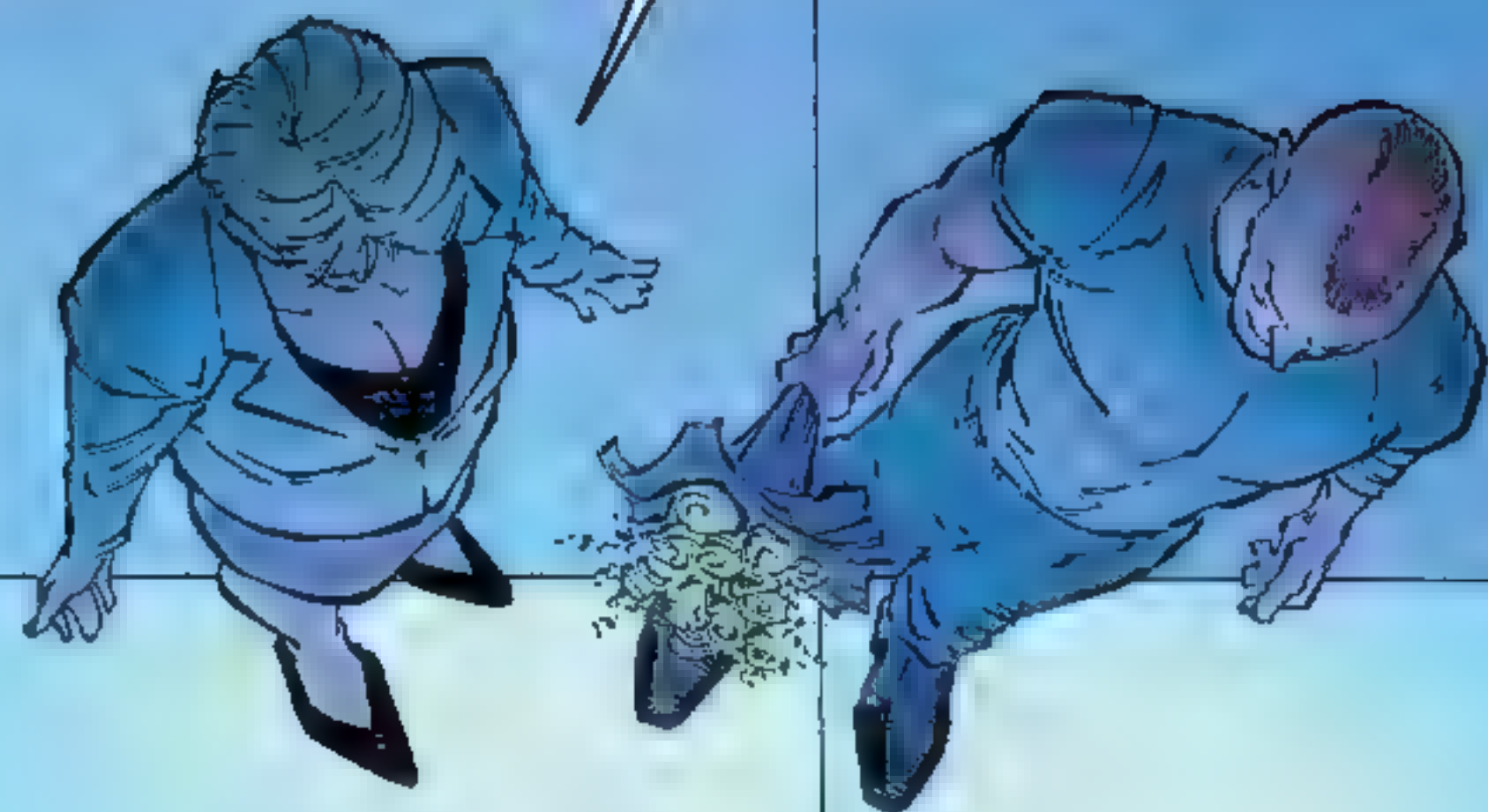
BUT SEE THERE'S THIS
THEORY... THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN
"ISLAND OF STABILITY" ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THAT SEA. NOT WHERE WE'VE BEEN
LOOKING, AT 122. OR 123. BUT IN THE 200s.
MAGIC NUMBERS. NEW METALS. NEW GASSES.
NEW LIQUIDS. IF ONLY WE CAN MAKE
THE LEAP OVER THAT ROILING,
IMPOSSIBLE SEA.



GERI, LISTEN TO ME.
I'M SORRY I WENT
OFF-GRID, BUT I NEED
TO GO AFTER
THIS GUY.

LOOK
DOWN.

LAST YEAR, WE *DID* IT. RIGHT HERE, WE REACHED THE ISLAND. WE CREATED *FOUR* NEW ELEMENTS. NEW BUILDING BLOCKS, HERE UNDER GOTHAM. THE NEWEST HAS AN ATOMIC NUMBER OF 206. HIGHER THAN PEOPLE THOUGHT POSSIBLE.



I WAS GOING TO PRESENT A PIECE TO YOU AT THAT GALA YOU MISSED. I HAD IT CUT TO ORDER. TAKE A LOOK.

TRY PICKING IT UP.



YOU *COULDN'T*. IT WEIGHS TWO TONS. IT'S ALSO A SUPER-CONDUCTOR.

BATMANIUM 206? GERI, LISTEN. THIS GUY, BLOOM...

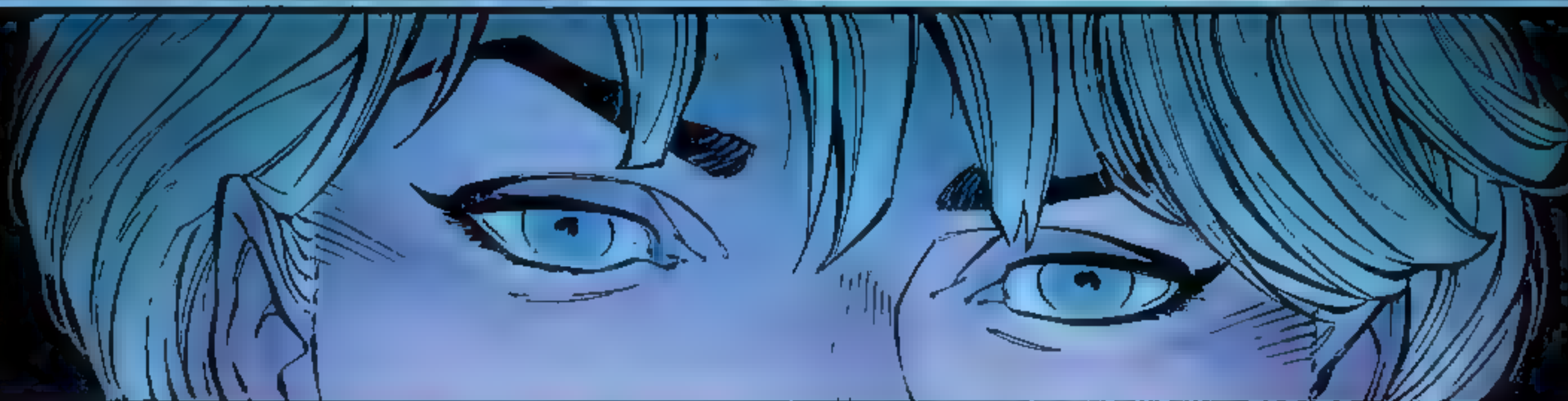
...HE OPERATES SOMEWHERE ALONG WHAT USED TO BE *BLOSSOM* RO--



I'M *FIRING* YOU, JIM.

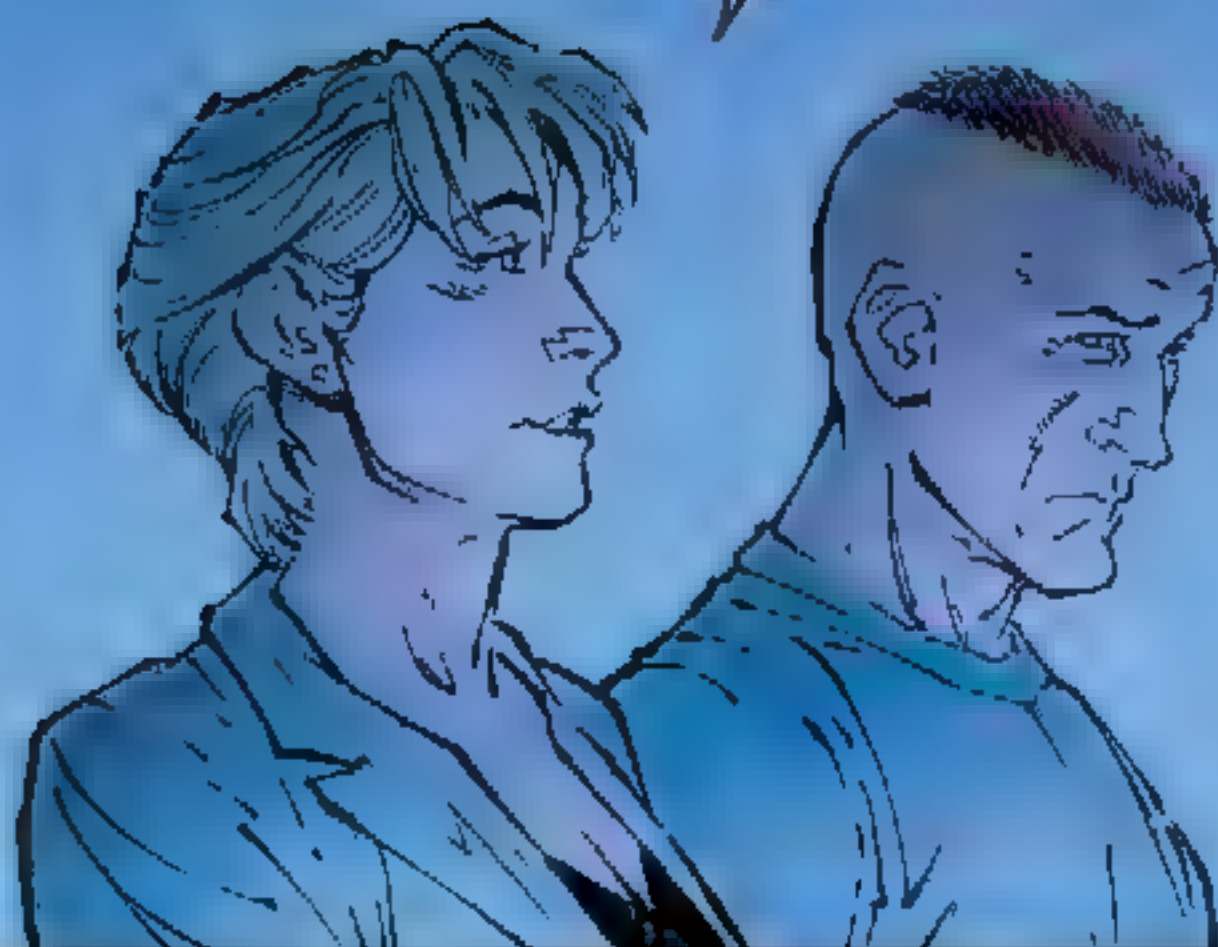
... WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

THE DEVIL PIG SCENE WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS. NOW, THERE'S A PRESENTATION TONIGHT, AND I WANT YOU TO *RESIGN*.



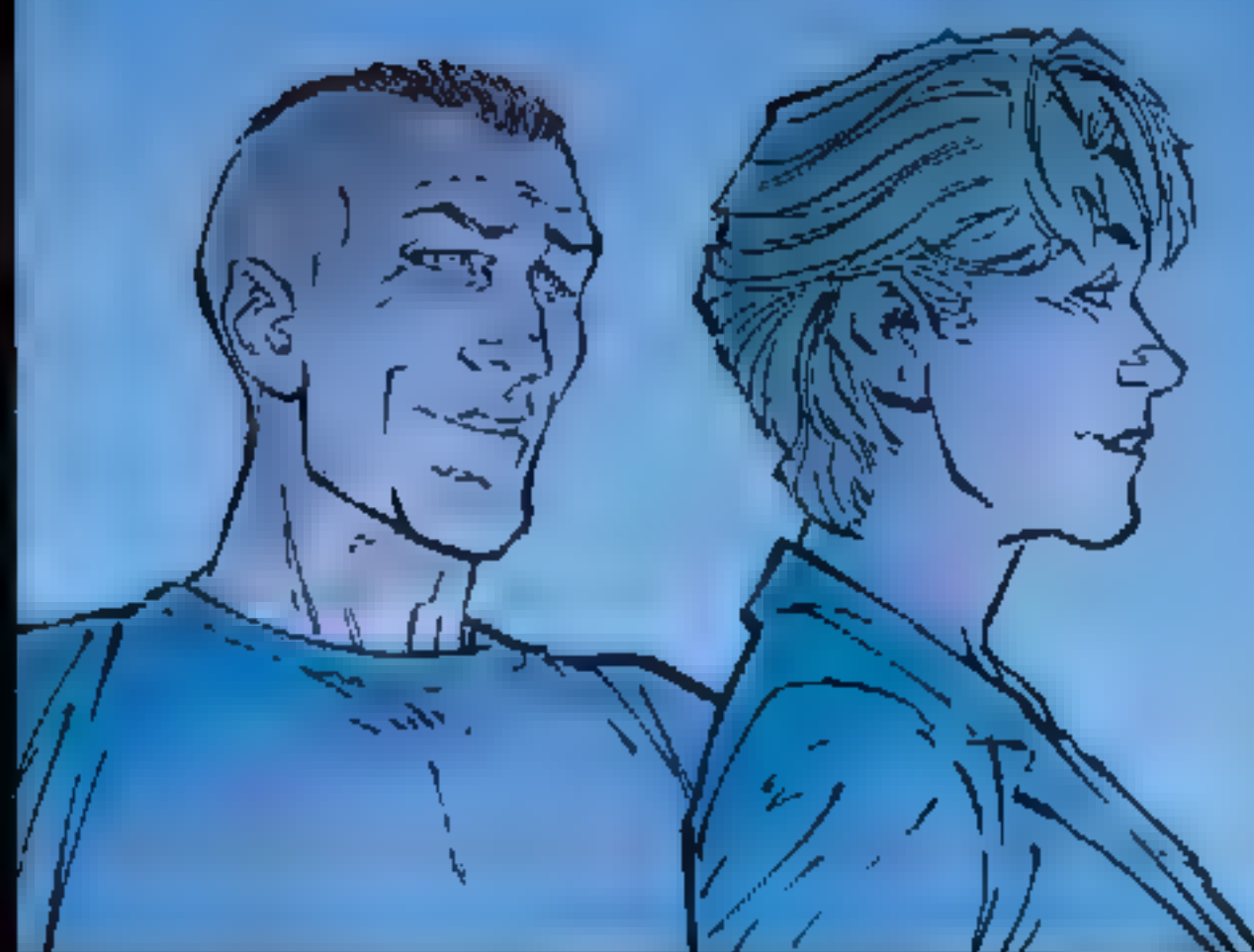
THE OLD BATMAN. HE WAS SOMETHING *SMALL*. A TINY, KNOWN ELEMENT. THIS, IT'S SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER. A BIGGER DREAM.

FOR IT TO WORK, IT NEEDS *POWER*. IT NEEDS SUPPORT. IT NEEDS A BIG MACHINE...



THERE'LL BE COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS THERE. POLICE. BUSINESS LEADERS. POLITICIANS. EVERYONE WHO MAKES THIS CITY RUN. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THIS, JIM, IN BATMAN AS SOMETHING THAT CAN GIVE PEOPLE *FAITH* IN THE CITY, IN THE SYSTEM, YOU'LL DO WHAT I'M ASKING.

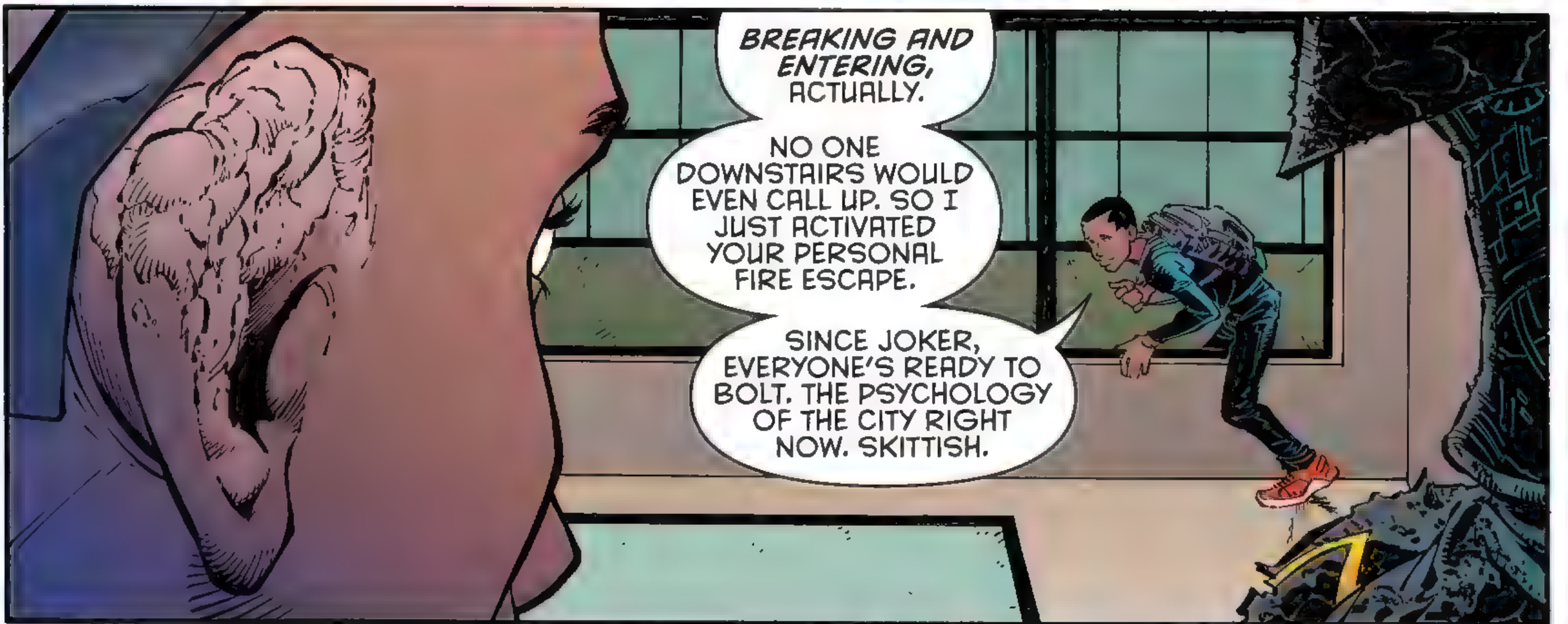
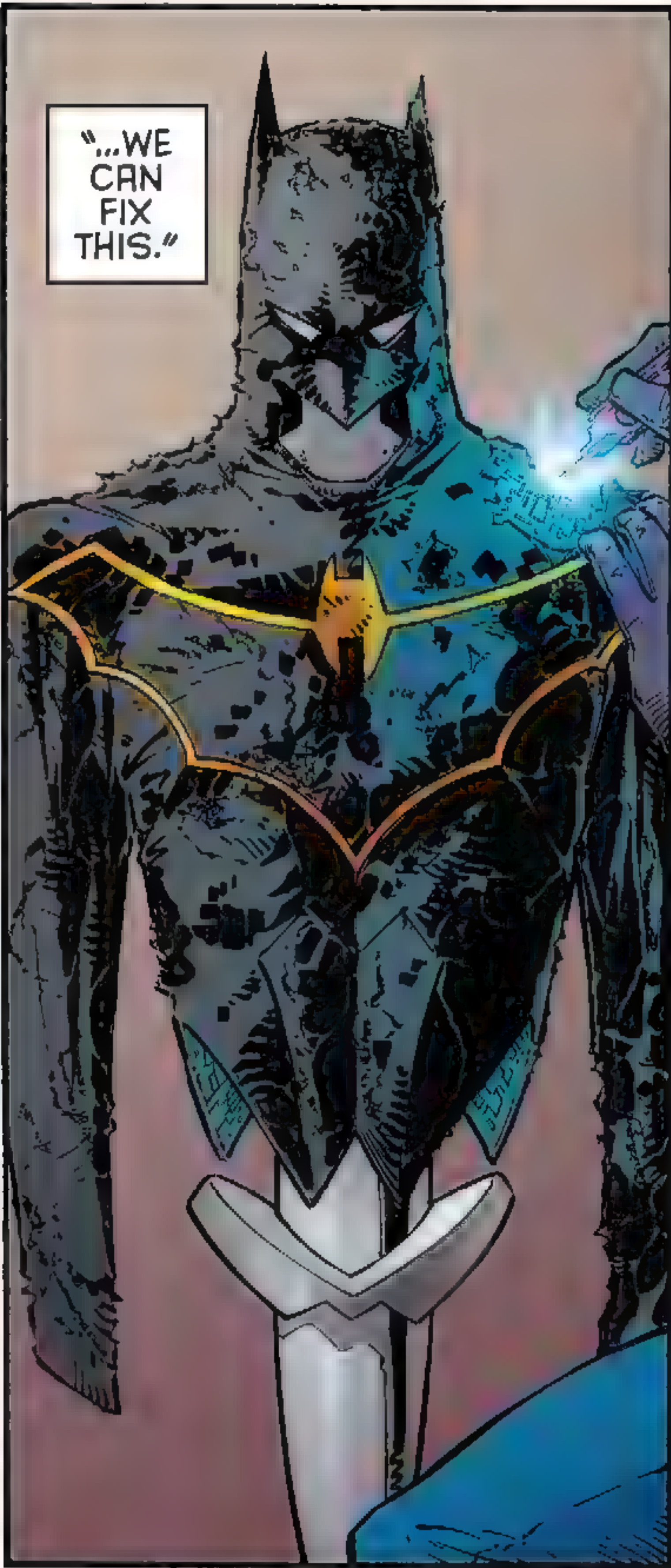
YOU CAN HELP ME PICK THE NEXT ONE.

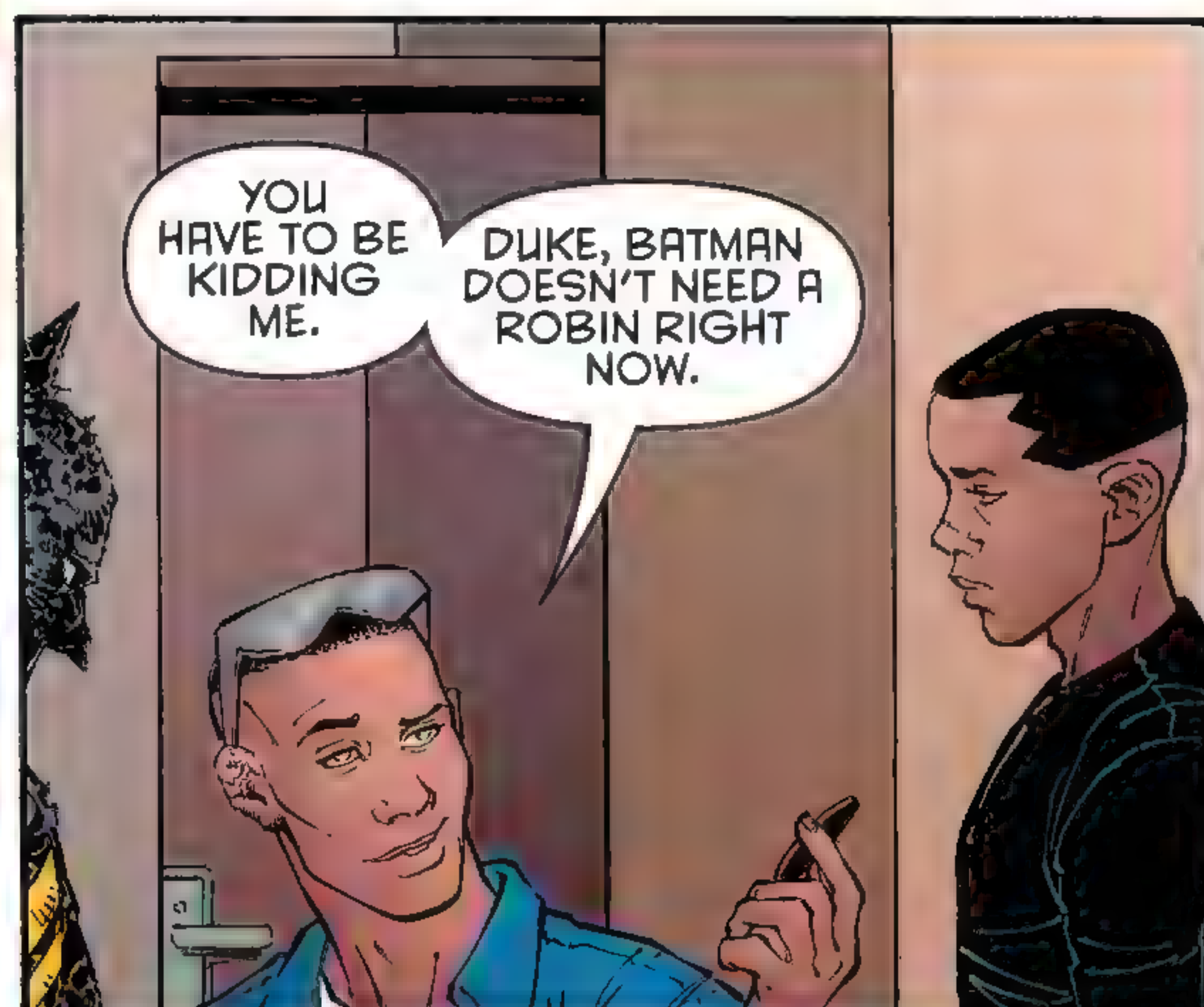


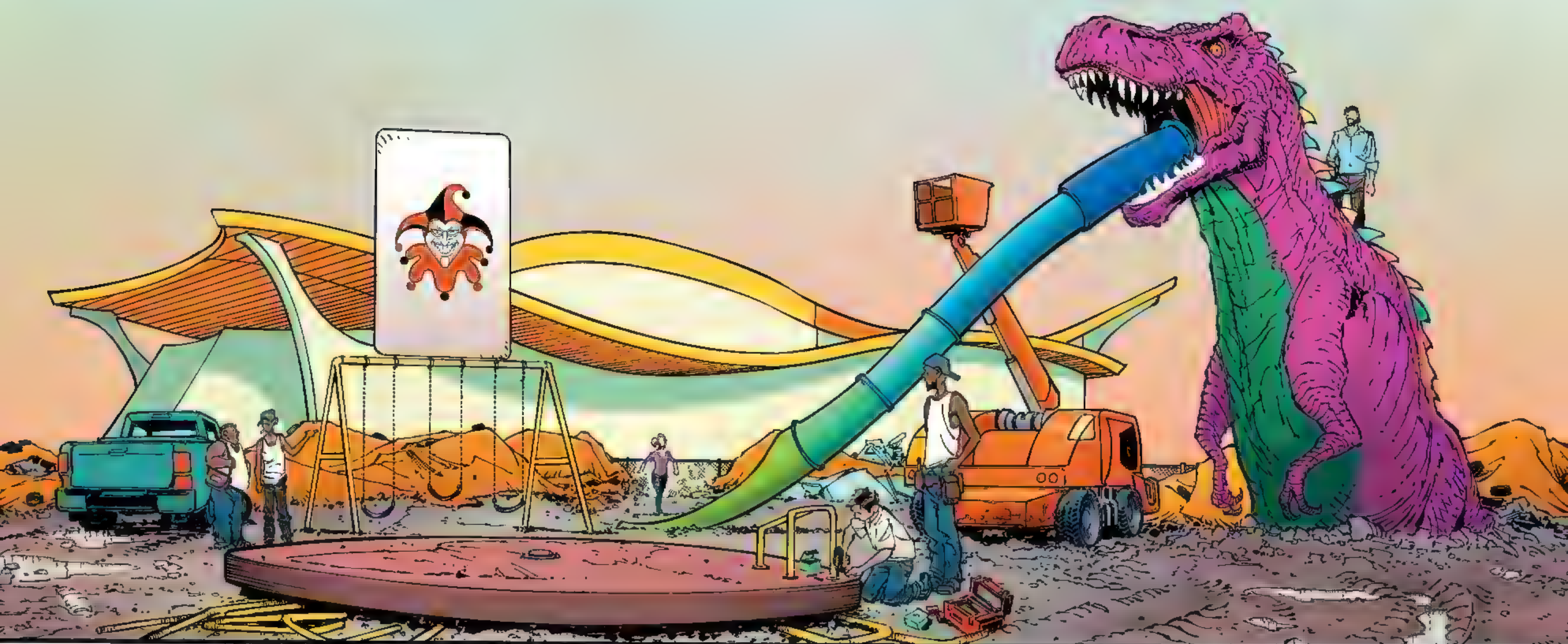
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET THIS GUY, GERI.

I KNOW. SO HELP ME KEEP THE LIGHTS ON, JIM. PLEASE...







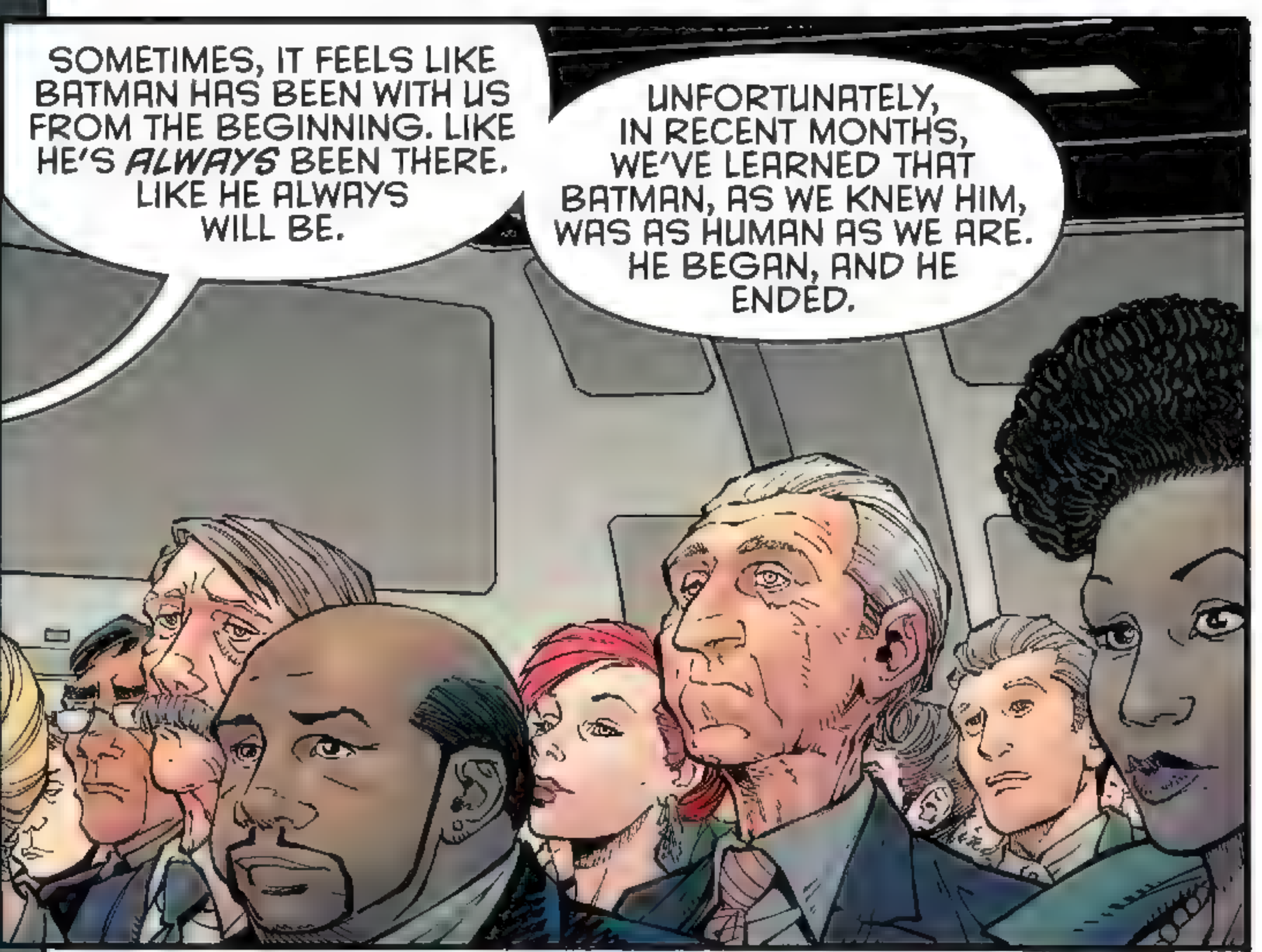




...AND THEN, THERE WAS BATMAN. AND THIS WAS GOOD.

HAHAHAHA

I'M KIDDING. BUT IN A WAY, I'M NOT.



SOMETIMES, IT FEELS LIKE BATMAN HAS BEEN WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING. LIKE HE'S *ALWAYS* BEEN THERE. LIKE HE ALWAYS WILL BE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN RECENT MONTHS, WE'VE LEARNED THAT BATMAN, AS WE KNEW HIM, WAS AS HUMAN AS WE ARE. HE BEGAN, AND HE ENDED.



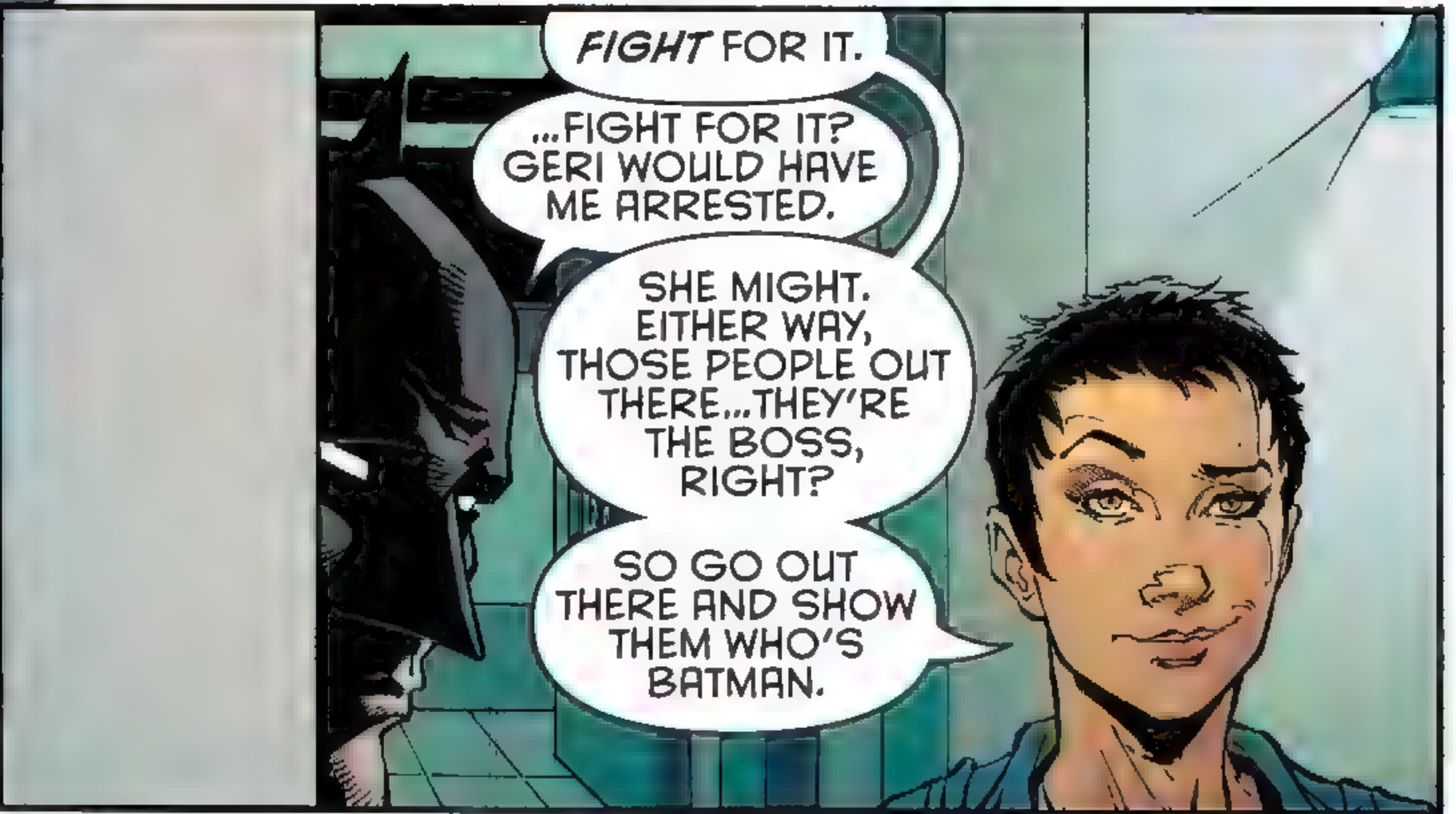
BUT THIS PROGRAM, IT'S ABOUT MAKING BATMAN LAST *BEYOND* ANY ONE MAN. SO THAT HE CAN ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US. SO THAT HE CAN BE A PART OF THIS GREAT CITY.



SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU WANT MY ADVICE?

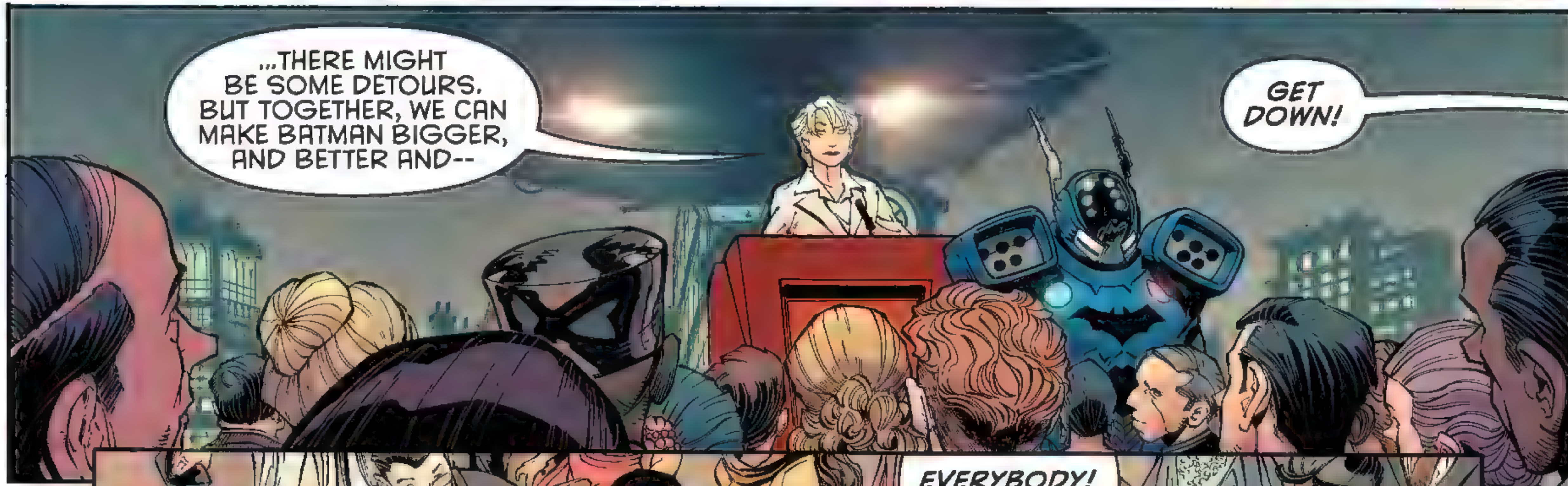


FIGHT FOR IT.

...FIGHT FOR IT? GERI WOULD HAVE ME ARRESTED.

SHE MIGHT. EITHER WAY, THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE...THEY'RE THE BOSS, RIGHT?

SO GO OUT THERE AND SHOW THEM WHO'S BATMAN.



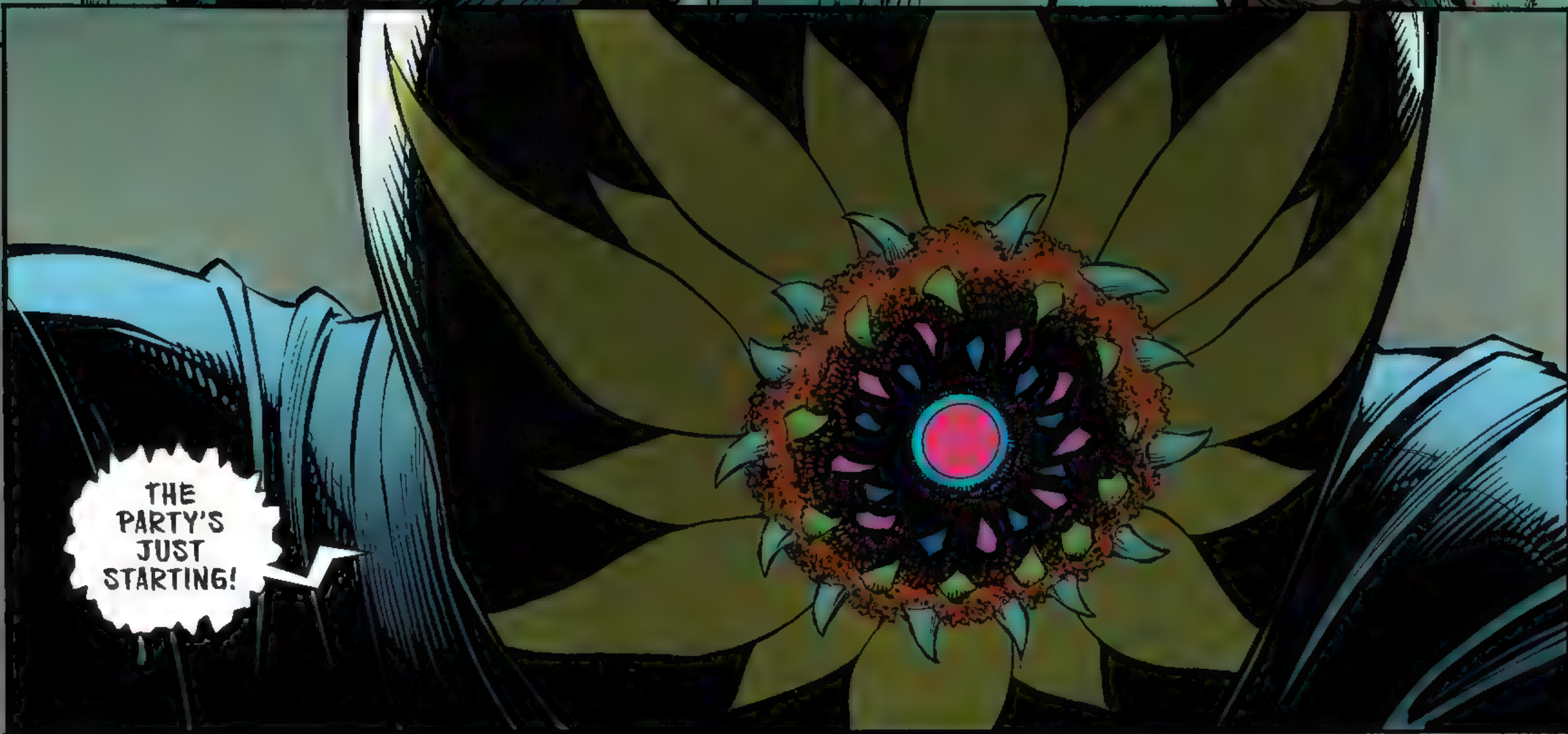




WAIT, WAIT,
WAIT! HOLD ON A
MINUTE!



WHERE
ARE YOU ALL
GOING?



THE
PARTY'S
JUST
STARTING!



VARIANT COVER GALLERY

BATMAN #41
JOKER 75TH ANNIVERSARY
VARIANT BY SEAN MURPHY
& MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN #42
TEEN TITANS GO! VARIANT BY
DAN HIPP

BATMAN #43
BOMBSHELLS VARIANT BY
ANT LUCIA

BATMAN #44
GREEN LANTERN 75TH ANNIVERSARY
VARIANT BY TONY S. DANIEL
& TOMEU MOREY

BATMAN #45
MONSTER VARIANT BY
ANDY KUBERT
& BRAD ANDERSON

BATMAN #43
LA MOLE COMIC CON
VARIANT BY
GREG CAPULLO

BATMAN #41
SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON
VARIANT BY
GREG CAPULLO

BATMAN #44
BALTIMORE COMIC-CON
VARIANT BY
JOCK







BRUCE WAYNE



**DETECTIVE
AGENCY**



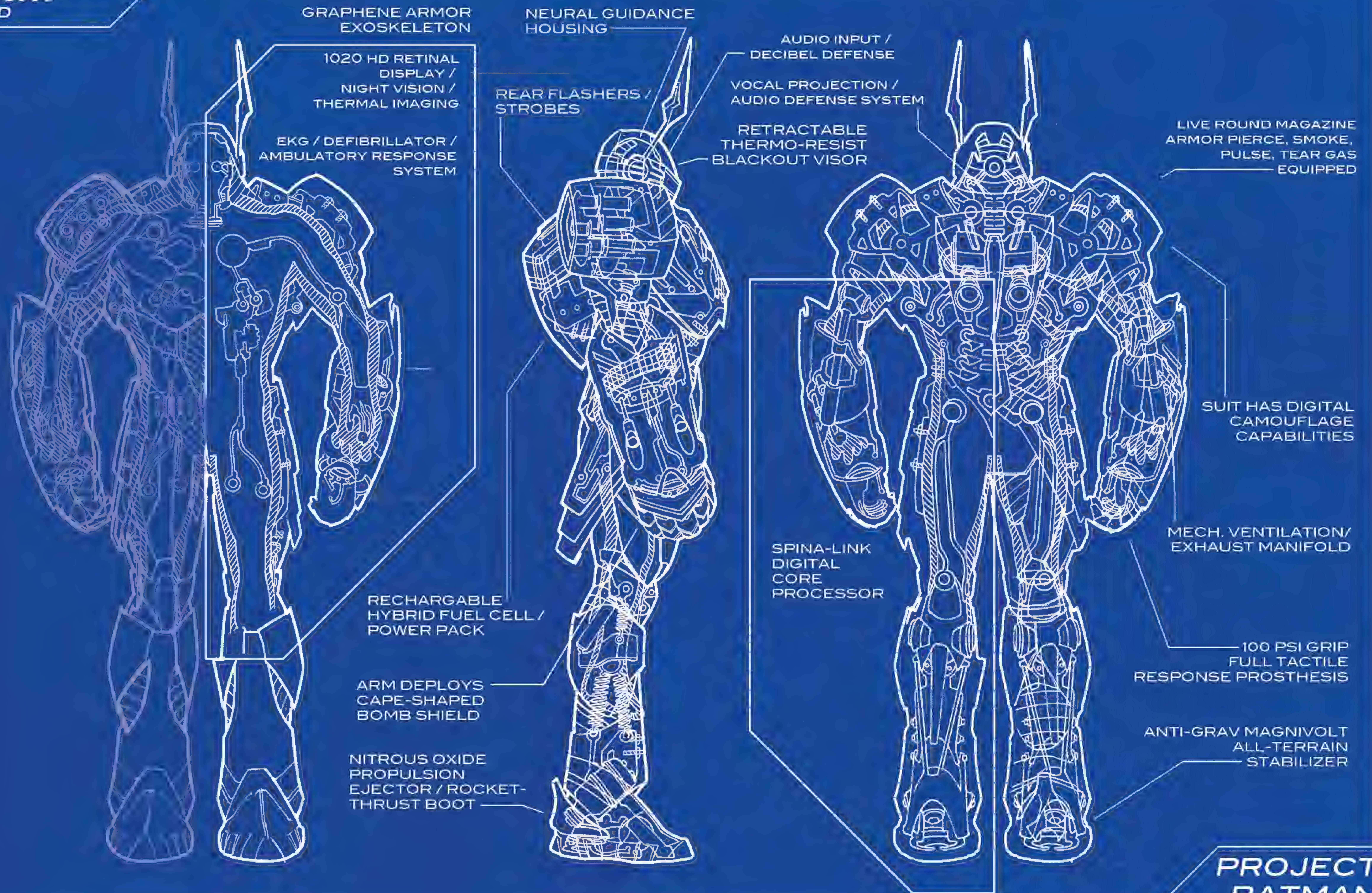




POWERS CORP.

MODEL B-101-8000

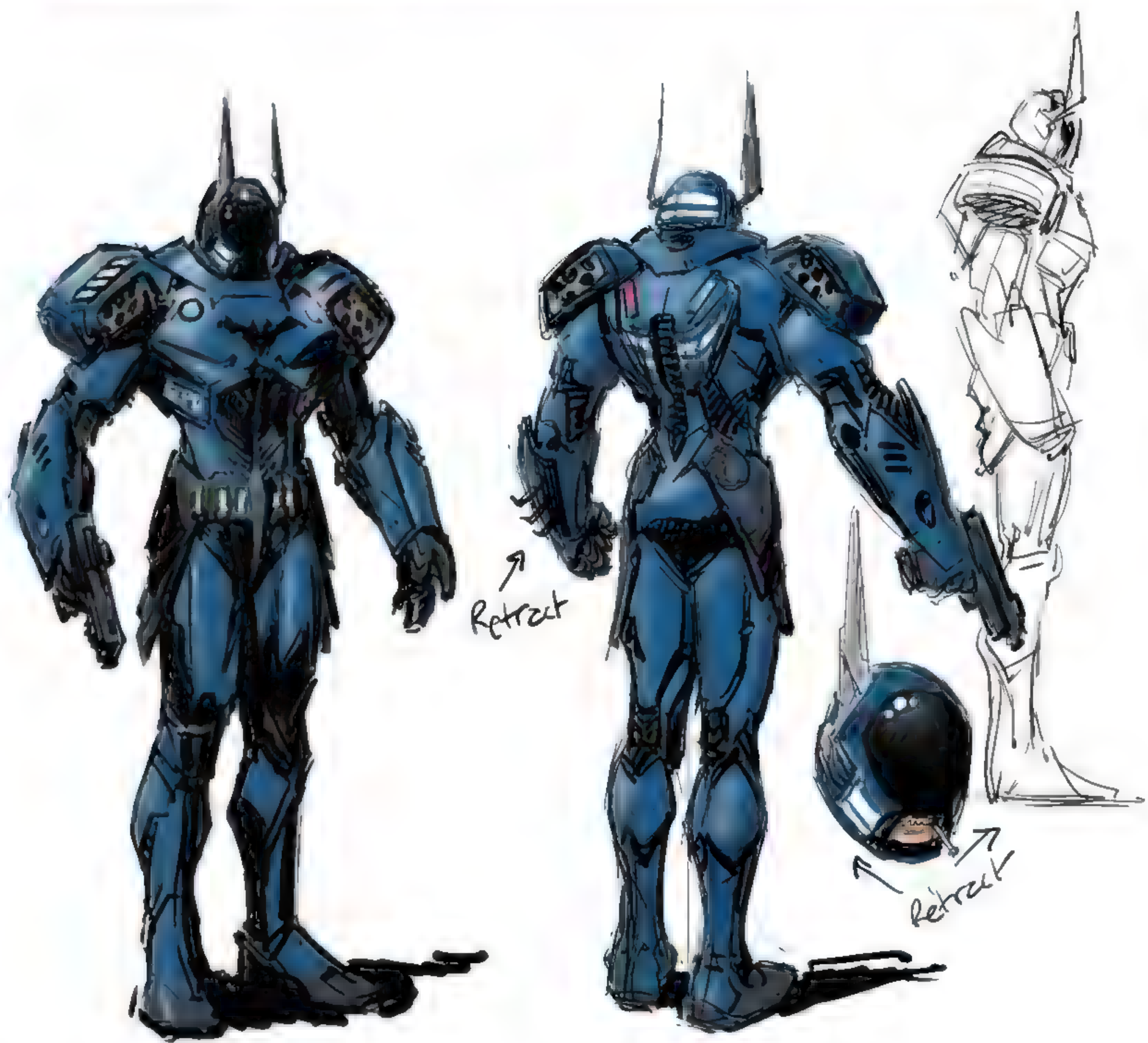
CLIENT: GCPD



PROJECT
BATMAN

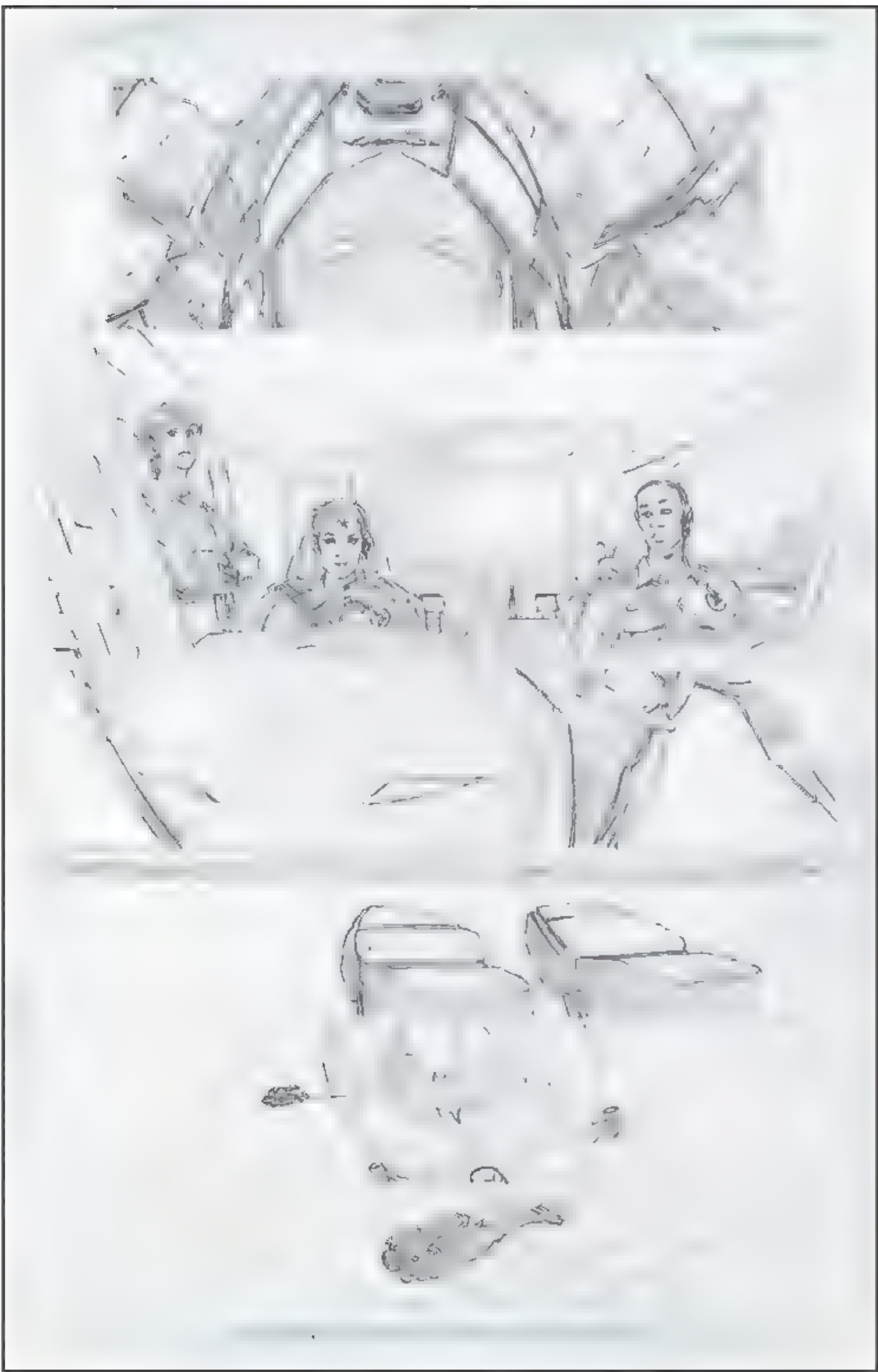
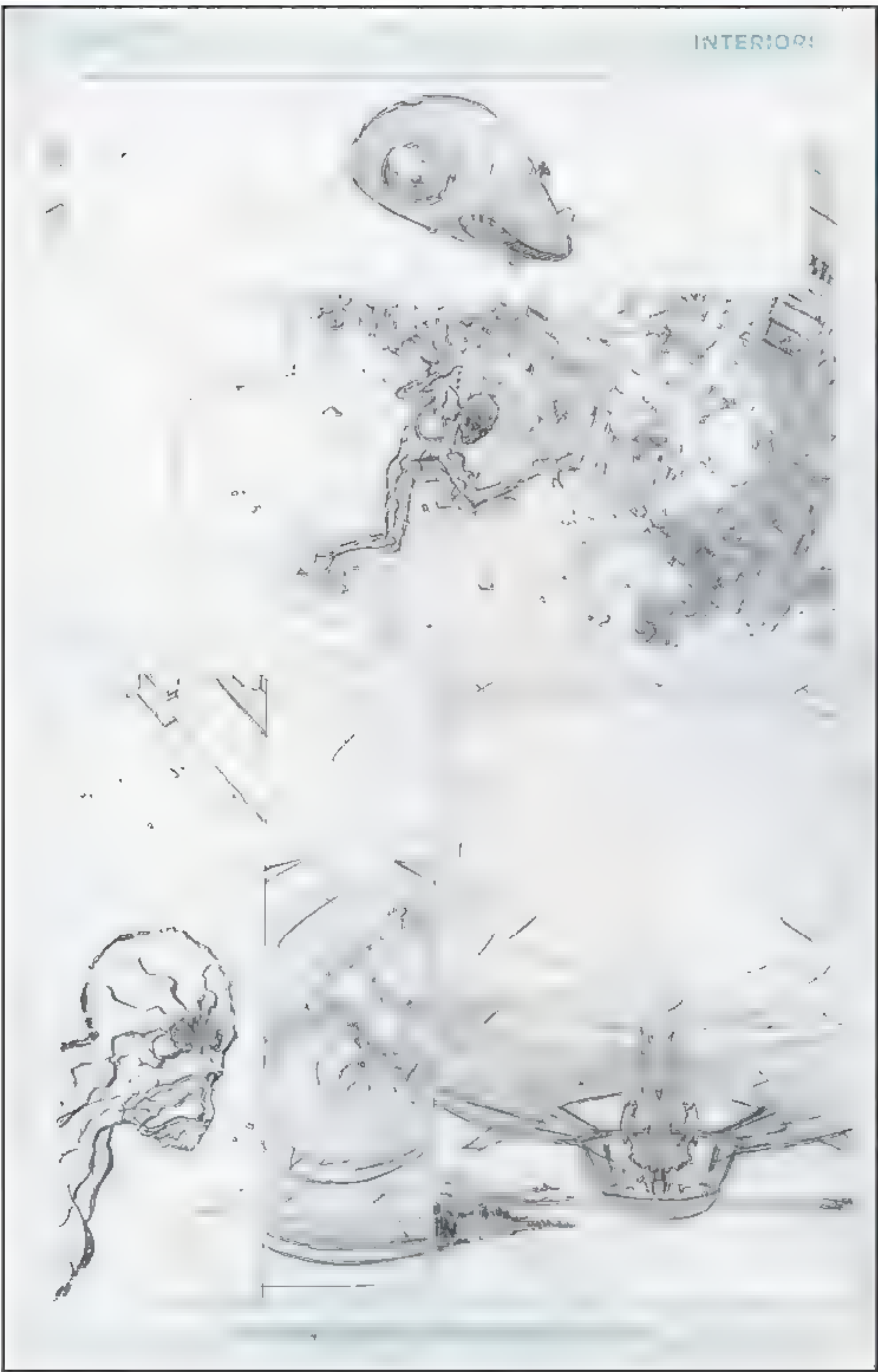
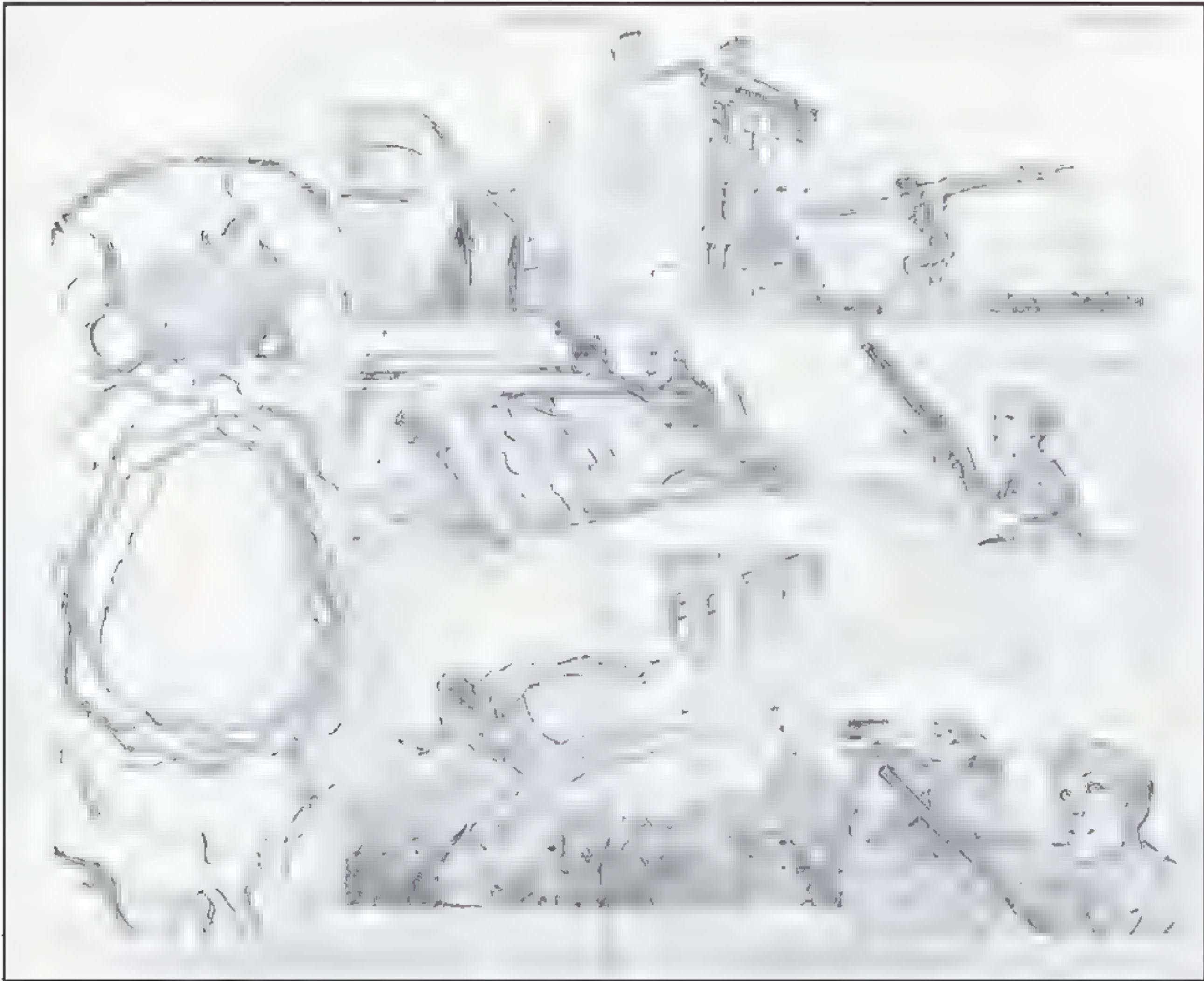


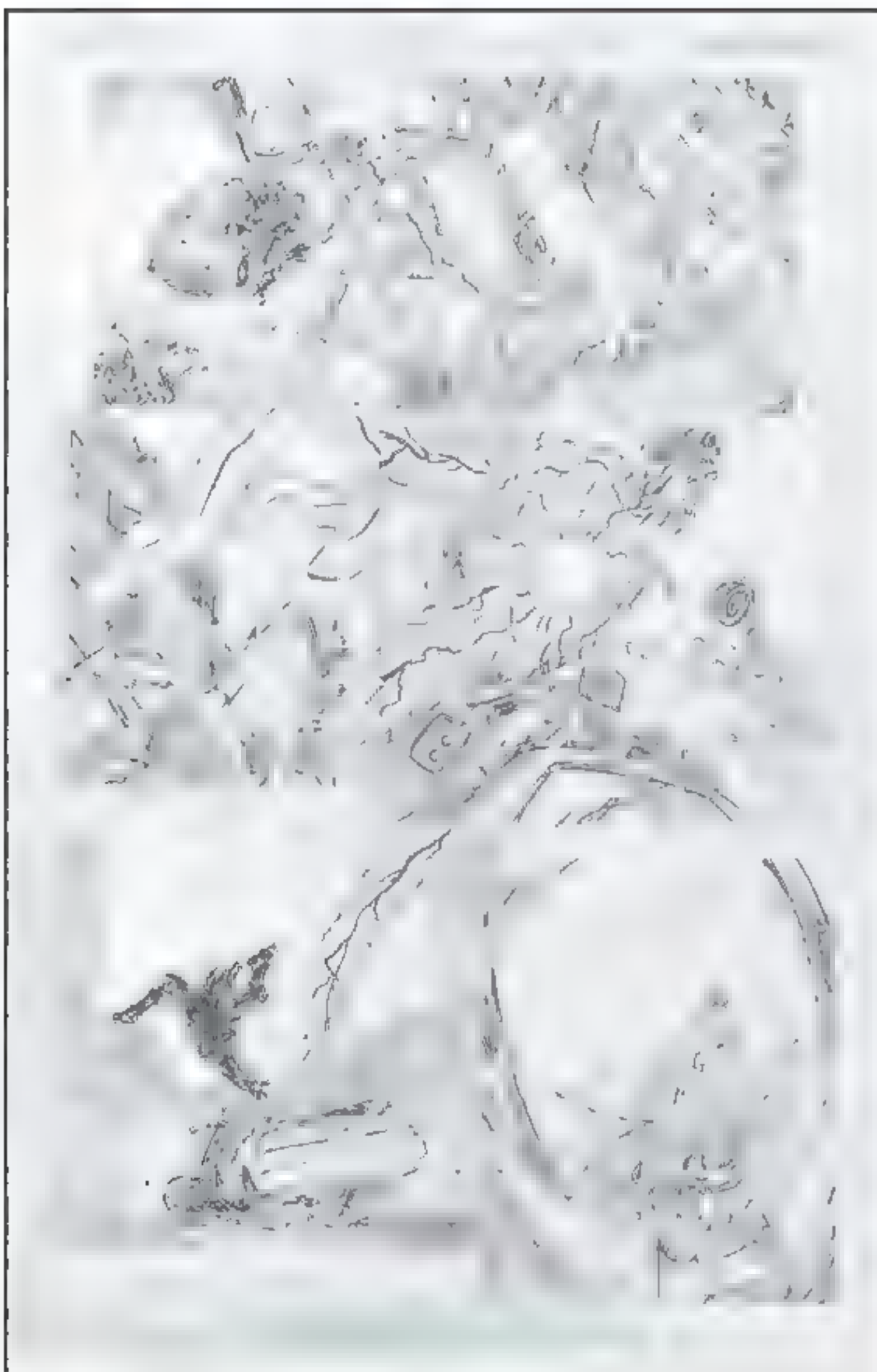
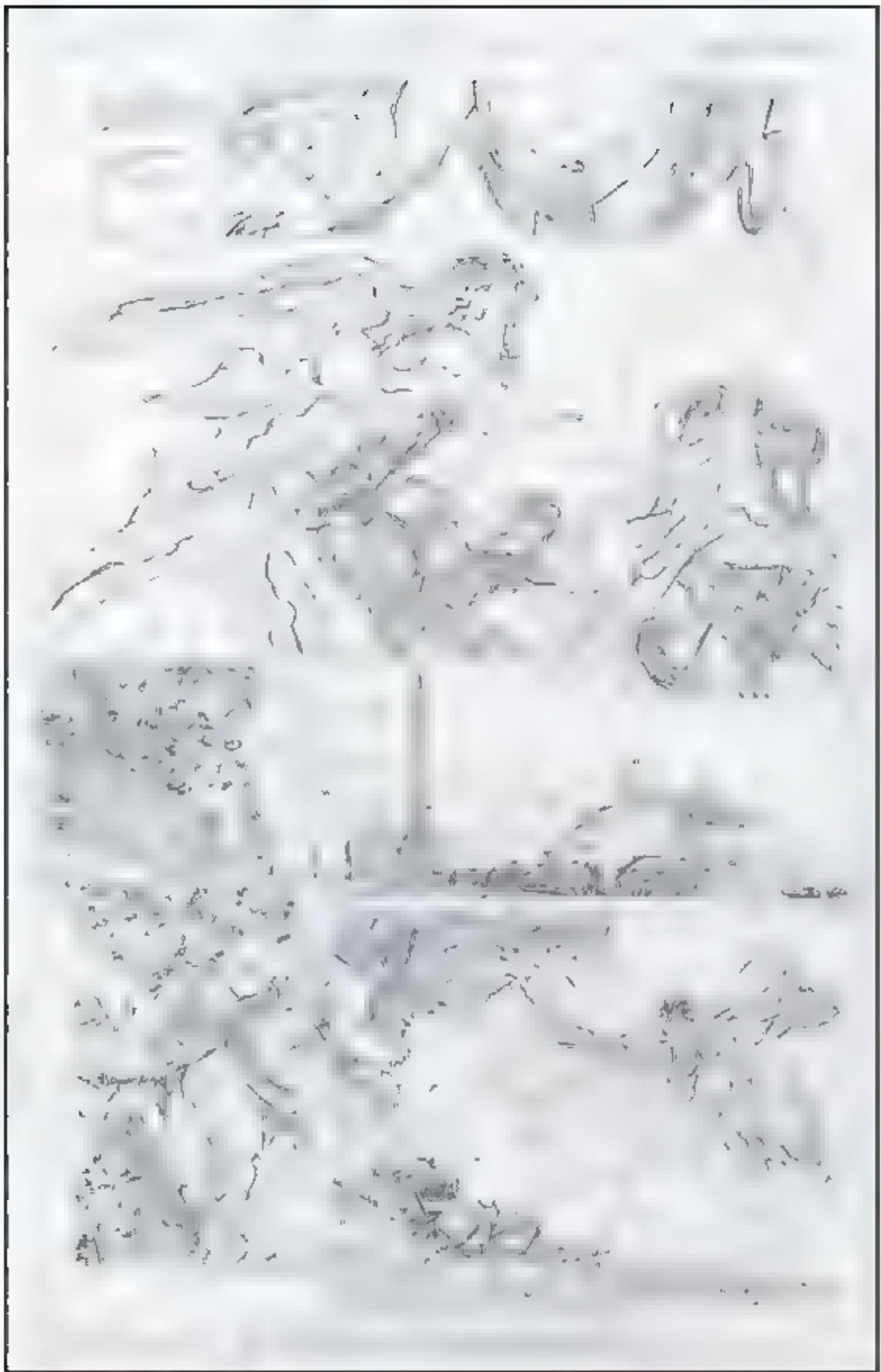
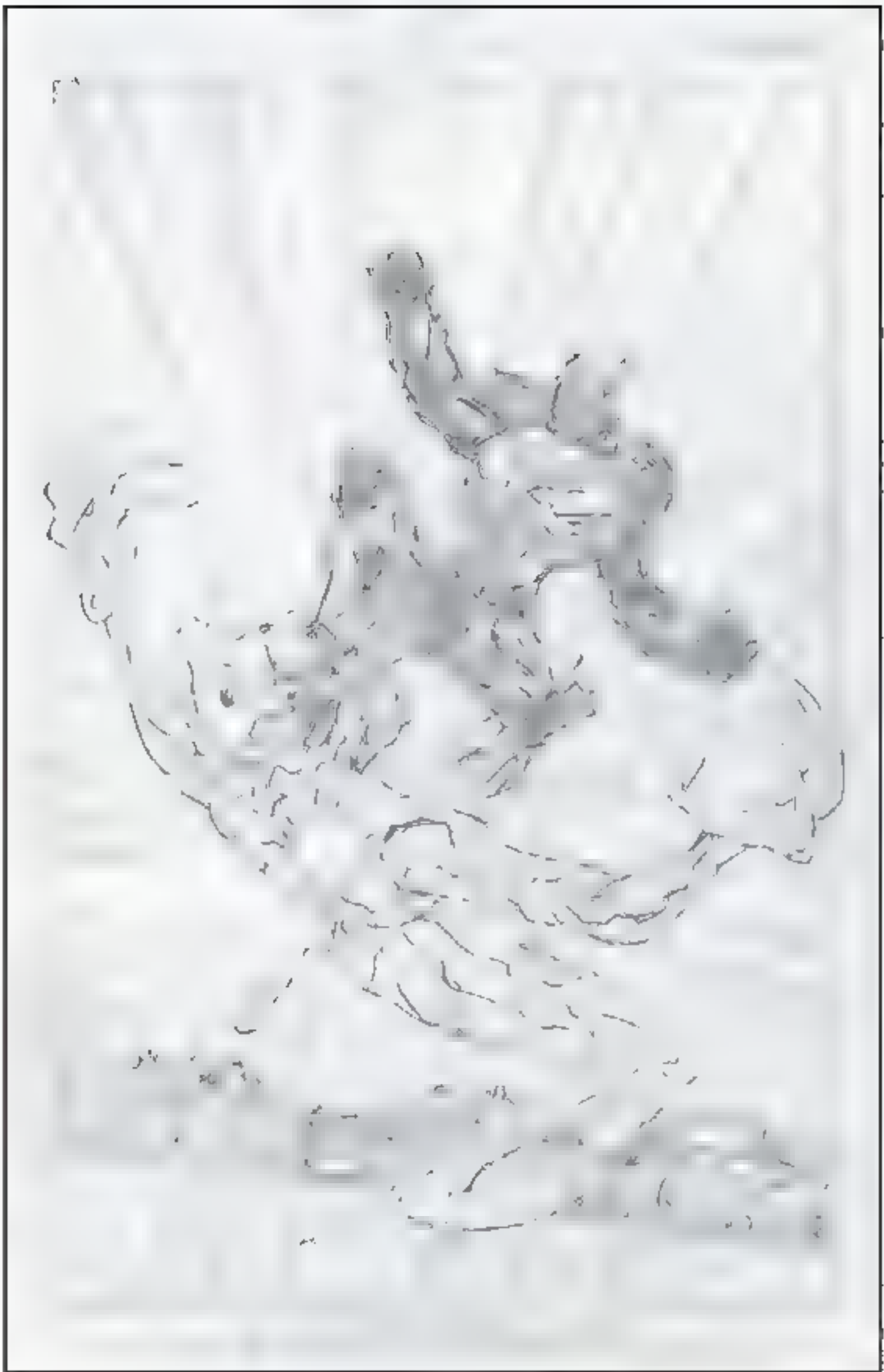
BATMAN CHARACTER SKETCHES BY
GREG CAPULLO

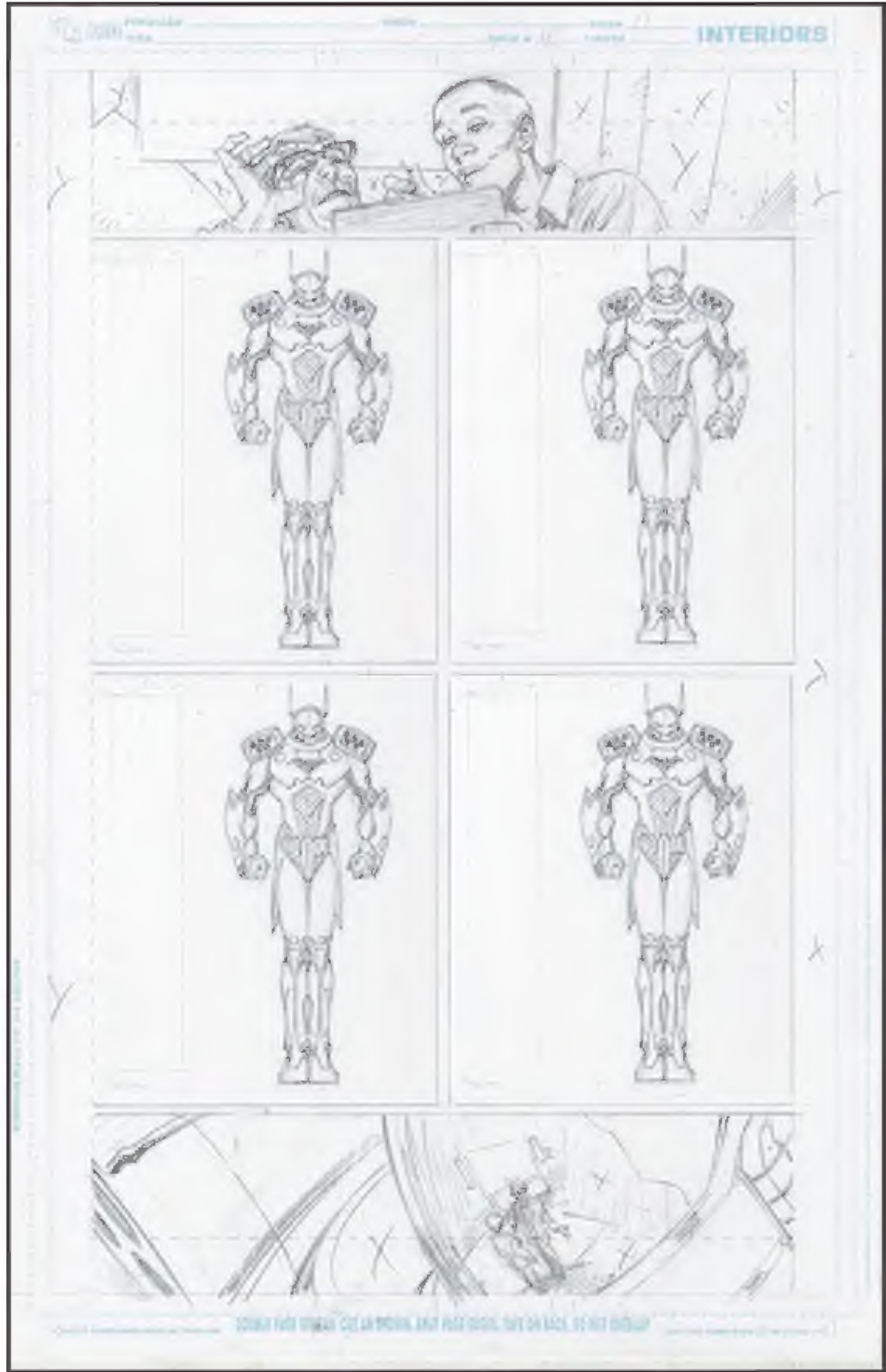


BATMAN #41 COVER & INTERIOR PENCIL ART BY
GREG CAPULLO











COMMISSIONER GORDON IS THE NEW BATMAN!

"...a great jumping-on point... from one of the best creative teams [BATMAN's] ever had."

NERDIST

"This is the Snyder and Capullo show. This is the work of two men at the top of their games. They have never been more confident in their storytelling."

NEW YORK POST

"Batman's new direction gets off to a great start with some strong characterization and inventive art."

IGN

"Why is Gotham City crumbling, you ask? Well, that's mostly due to BATMAN writer Scott Snyder putting the city through the wringer time and time again in consistently excellent stories like COURT OF OWLS, DEATH OF THE FAMILY and now ENDGAME."

NERDIST

"Scott Snyder has reinvented Batman, deepening and humanizing the Dark Knight's myth like no one since Frank Miller in the 1980s."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Following the disappearance and presumed death of Batman, former police commissioner Jim Gordon has been called to carry on the Dark Knight's legacy and become his successor.

But while the name and what it stands for remain the same, this new Batman is far from just a copy of the original. Patrolling the city in a gargantuan high-tech Batsuit, Gordon is no shadowy vigilante. He has the full cooperation of the GCPD and the mayor, plus a multimillion-dollar budget from Powers International.

But will an expensive suit be enough to stop the mysterious, weed-like Mr. Bloom before his deadly plans for the city take root?

The #1 *New York Times* best-selling all-star creative team of **SCOTT SNYDER**, **GREG CAPULLO**, **DANNY MIKI** and **FCO PLASCENCIA** introduce an all-new Dark Knight in **BATMAN VOL. 8: SUPERHEAVY**, with guest appearances by Brian Azzarello (WONDER WOMAN) and Jock (BATMAN: THE BLACK MIRROR). Collects BATMAN #41-45 and DC SNEAK PEEK: BATMAN #1.

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